The Middlebury Campus

VOL. CXVI, No. 21 | MIDDLEBURY, VERMONT, APRIL 12, 2018 | MIDDLEBURYCAMPUS.COM

Alumnus Revealed as Alt-Right Troll

By CATHERINE POLLACK
News Editor

A Middlebury alumnus was exposed as a leading alt-right Twitter troll who spread Russian misinformation during the 2016 election in a viral article published by the Huffington Post last Thursday, April 5. The alumnus, Douglas Mackey '11, operated online under the pseudonym "Ricky Vaughn."

Under the guise of Ricky Vaughn, Mackey attached himself to the extremist, white supremacist movement that supported now President Trump in the summer leading up to the 2016 election. It was during this summer that Mackey was fired from his job as an economist at John Dunham & Associates in New York City.

Gaining thousands of followers, he tweeted and retweeted Islamophobic, racist, anti-Semitic and misogynistic ideas, while also appealing to more mainstream Trump supporters in the lead up to the presidential election. Mackey's dissemination of far-right propaganda under the pseudonym put him on the MIT Media Lab's list of 150 influencers in the 2016 election, ahead of NBC News, Stephen Colbert and other news sources.

When Twitter shut down his account, @Ricky_Vaughn99, a month before the election, the Huffington Post reported that he resumed activity under the new handle of @RapinBill.

Mackey also began working on the site Gab, a social media platform built around ideas of total free speech and anti-censorship. Gab has become largely populated by white supremacists, members of the alt-right movement and neo-Nazis.

Mackey maintained his anonymity until a white nationalist congressional candidate in Wisconsin, Paul Nehlan, revealed Mackey's identity last week in a feud over divisions between the

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MICHAEL BORENSTEIN/THE MIDDLEBURY CAMPUS

The Diner on Merchant's Row will close after it is purchased by the neighboring Town Hall Theater this summer.

Faculty Demand Answers on Executive Pay

By ELIZABETH SAWYER
News Editor

The Patton administration faced widespread outrage from professors regarding salary practices for top officials at a faculty meeting on April 6. The faculty railed against bonuses and mismanagement, as well as payouts during the Liebowitz administration, which ended in 2015.

President Laurie L. Patton discussed executive pay during her routine report to the faculty and emphasized that she is committed to using fewer stay bonuses of smaller amounts. Stay bonuses were a main point of criticism in physics professor Noah Graham's op-ed, "Executive Pay and Why It Matters," published in the March 15 issue of The Campus.

"I'm still interested in maintaining a very modest use of these bonuses because they are used in higher ed to prevent a kind of constant searching and turning over," Patton said. "But as you saw from the data, my interest and commitment to them is very modest. They are one tool among many, and I am committed to moving to most of those other tools before we do that."

Though Patton was unable to stay after concluding her presentation, Provost gave a more in-depth presentation on the subject later in the meeting. Provost provided specifics regarding previously-issued retention bonuses.

"Since 2009, there were 11 different retention bonuses involving seven different administrators, ranging in annual amounts from $50,000 to $100,000. Those yielded pay outs anywhere from $100,000 to $500,000," Provost said.

"Today there are three retention bonuses that range in the $40,000 to $50,000 range, with total expected payouts of $150,000 to $250,000" he added.

Cason, who presented alongside Provost, told the faculty that he was one of the three remaining employees with a retention bonus.

"This was offered to me in Laurie's first year when I was interviewing for another presidency," Cason said. "I'm just putting that out there, that's just a fact. If I had understood how this was going to go on, I might have asked for a different kind of compensation at the time. I didn't ask for [a stay bonus], so I'll say that."

Provost argued that stay bonuses are effective, given that they have resulted in faculty recipients remaining at the college for the duration of their bonus' payout. Faculty had additional questions regarding the purpose of stay bonuses, however.

"Any of the previous 11 that were

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WHITE NATIONALIST PROPAGANDA FOUND IN LIBRARY

By ELAINE VELIE
News Editor

Davis Family Library staff discovered white nationalist propaganda in the library shelves over spring break. Papers were interspersed throughout sections relating to queer studies, the Holocaust, the civil rights movement, Judaism and Islam and resembled historically accurate Confederate bills, but were altered to include two Bible verses and multiple images of the Star of David.

The Community Bias Response Team informed the campus of the event in an email from chief diversity officer Miguel Fernández.

The incident was one in a series of related incidents in Vermont, New York and New Hampshire.

Identical pieces of propaganda were found in the Saratoga Springs Public Library last August, a week after white supremacists in Charlottesville, Virginia violently protested the removal of a confederate statue by emulating Nazi marches. The Charlottesville event culminated in a white supremacist driving his car into a crowd and killing one opposing protester and injuring several others.

In the months since, similar materials have been found in the libraries of the University of Vermont and Southern Vermont College, in the Rutland Free Library and on cars in West Lebanon, New Hampshire.

"I assume it was an outsider," said David Evans, president of Southern Vermont College.

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Diner to Close in June and Become Theater Storage

By ELLIE ANDERSON
Local Editor

Following a two year-long search for additional rehearsal and storage space, the Town Hall Theater has announced its decision to buy The Diner property on Merchants Row. The Diner will continue its regular operations up until THT's official purchase on June 1. Following this date, the Theater board plans to open a new business — food-related or otherwise — to fill the space until funds are raised to support their future goals of expansion.

"The key point we want to make to the community is we don't want to shutter the building," said Douglas Anderson, THT Executive Director and former member of Middlebury College's theater faculty, in an interview with the Addison County Independent. "We think an empty storefront is bad for downtown. We are actively looking for anyone who has any idea of how to use the building, and we will entertain any idea."

The Diner was placed on the market about six weeks ago. Its owners, Carl Roesch and Caetlin Harwood, were relieved at its quick purchase, as they had taken some significant financial hits during the town's bridge construction last year. In late January, Carol's Hungry Mind Café down the street similarly announced its impending closure as a result of the bridge project's impact on recent sales.

However, Roesch and Harwood are glad that The Diner's property will go to a neighbor. "Both Caetlin and I are extremely excited about the THT purchasing the property and expanding," Roesch said to the Addison County Independent. "Doug has shared his vision with us, and we see it as something that will be great for the community."

In the meantime, Roesch and Harwood are committed to maintaining The Diner until June 1. "We want to go out with a bang," Roesch said.

Originally opened in the 1930s as Steve's Park Diner, The Diner has long been a popular destination for Middlebury residents and College students alike. The breakfast and lunch spot is known for its milkshakes — "the best in town," as The Diner claims on its website — and its creative daily specials. In particular, many students will miss The Diner's iconic Nutella Stuffed French Toast.

"It's pretty sad," said Logan Wright '19, of The Diner's closing. "Every town needs a diner."

Fortunately for Wright and other Diner regulars, Roesch and Harwood have confirmed with the Addison County Independent that they will be returning to Addison County further in the future with a "new 'food-driven' venture." Additionally, THT Board President Deppman

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Treasurer Talks Divestment

By KENZO OKAZAKI
Contributing Writer

In response to calls for more divestment, treasurer David Provost and representatives from Investure, Middlebury's endowment manager, justified the college's continued investment in fossil fuels.

Middlebury's investments in fossil fuel corporations have been a topic of contention on campus since a divestment campaign began in 2012. Provost held a forum on April 5 for students to better understand the issue and the college's commitment to sustainable investing.

Several representatives of Investure joined Provost. They immediately stated that the meeting would center on audience questions rather than a scripted presentation. The founder of Investure, Alice Handy, associate and sustainability researcher Grace Bennett, and managing director John Hill attended the forum.

Handy outlined Investure's goals in their management of the endowment, emphasizing their aim to maximize long-term returns on investments.

One student interjected and argued against the description of the endowment as a resource for future stakeholders in Middlebury, arguing that investments in fossil fuels fail to take into account the impact of climate change on future Middlebury students. The student said that hoping fossil fuel stocks will perform better implies a lack of interest in the future of the environment and the future of students, contradicting their concern for future generations.

Handy responded to the student's concern by arguing that fossil fuels are still critical to the energy sector in the U.S.

"We have a long way to go in this country," Handy said. "Your board has said that if these are good investments, you should be making them."

Provost presented the college's decision to work with Investure as one attempt to increase sustainable investing.

"Significant steps were made to try to find more sustainable investments," Provost said. One of these steps was Middlebury's $50 million investment into a sustainability series managed by Investure, he said.

"We want this fund to be successful," Handy said. This is in part to show other investors that sustainable investing can generate big returns."

Provost also noted that in addition to investment, the college should be more conscious of its energy consumption on campus, noting that despite great gains, "we are not where you as students want us to be."

The meeting concluded on a hopeful note about both sustainability at Middlebury and in the financial market.

Discussing investment in renewable energy, Handy said she was "amazed at how quickly it's moving."

This event fell under Middworks, a larger project spearheaded by the Student Government Association (SGA) and the Senior Leadership Group (SLG). Middworks aims to organize events that encourage increased understanding between Middlebury's students, faculty and staff.

AIDAN ACOSTA/THE MIDDLEBURY CAMPUS

Qian Li was among 12 semi-finalists who competed in the Parker-Merrill Speech Competition put on by Oratory Now on Tuesday. The finals will take place April 19 at 7:30 p.m. in the MCA Robinson Concert Hall.

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NEWS IN BRIEF

By CAMPUS STAFF

SEXUAL ASSAULT AWARENESS AND PREVENTION MONTH

The college is observing Sexual Assault Awareness and Prevention Month (SAAPM) throughout the month of April. The goal of SAAPM is to increase awareness surrounding sexual assault and to engage students in discussions about preventing violence and supporting survivors.

Director of health and wellness Barbara McCall explained that while the events planned for the month used to focus on awareness, they have increasingly begun to address prevention.

"An increased level of base awareness has paved the way for the month to highlight action-oriented themes like violence prevention," McCall said.

Throughout the month of April, there will be a weekly "Self-Care for Survivors" workshop on Wednesday afternoons. The workshop is aimed at survivors but is open to all.

The month will end with two events hosted by Karen B.K. Chan. Chan is a sex and emotional literacy educator from Toronto, Canada who uses stories, metaphors and diagrams to facilitate productive dialogue and work through difficult conversations about challenging topics. Chan is also known for her accessible style of education and her ability to make people laugh.

On April 17, Chan will host "Sexy Bingo" which will test participants' sexual health knowledge. The following night, April 18, she will co-lead an event with student activists entitled "Empowerment, Allyship, & Calling In: A Workshop for Activists." The event will discuss concrete ways in which individuals can work to combat sexual assault.

SAAPM is sponsored by the Office of Health and Wellness Education, Green Dot, the SGA Committee on Sexual and Relationship Respect, Sex Positive Education College Style (SPECS), and the Title IX team.

A complete calendar of events can be found at go/saapm18/.

- Caroline Kapp

SGA PASSES STUDENT TRUSTEE BILL

The Students-Trustees Representation and Engagement Bill passed in the SGA Senate on Sunday with one senator opposed. The bill recommends to the administration that an additional student constituent be added to the College Board of Overseers, that the terms of the student constituents be increased to two years, and that the student constituents be given voting power in the board.

A proposed bylaw amendment which would make Commons Senator positions semester long position passed with three senators opposed and two abstaining. The change will allow students who are studying abroad for part of the year able to participate in SGA.

Opponents to the amendment pointed out that it would be logistically difficult to implement, and that the transition would create confusion. The amendment passed with three opposed and two abstaining. One of the amendment's cosponsors, Wonnacott Commons Senator Anthony Salas, plans to study abroad next spring.

However, the change will not take effect for another week, since changes to the SGA's bylaws require that they be revealed to the student body prior to approval.

- Eric Kapner

ALUMNUS AND PROFESSOR NOMINATED FOR PEABODYS

Two members of the Middlebury community — an alumnus and a current professor — were nominated for Peabody Awards on Monday, April 10.

Andrew Ackerman '13, served as co-producer and cinematographer for Chasing Coral, a Netflix documentary that followed a team of divers, photographers, and scientists as they documented the demise of the world's coral reefs.

David Miranda Hardy, a professor in the Film & Media Culture department, received a nomination for his Chilean television series Bala Loca, which he co-created, wrote, and produced.

The Peabody Awards are among the most prestigious awards in storytelling, and "represent the most compelling and empowering stories released in electronic media during 2017." The winners will be announced on Saturday, May 19 in New York.

- Will DiGravio

MICHAEL BORENSTEIN/THE MIDDLEBURY CAMPUS

ConsentFest took place in the Axinn Winter Garden on Tuesday.

'Don't Let This Happen Again,' Professor Tells Admin

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put in place in all cases achieved their anniversary date," Provost said. "Yes, they worked from the standpoint of keeping that person here."

Jason Mittell, a film professor, argued that some of the faculty who remained at Middlebury due to stay bonuses actually harmed the college.

"People were highly compensated at the exact same time that they were making financially irresponsible decisions at the college, which then they had left for Laurie and David to correct," Mittell said. "What type of accountability has the board of trustees talked about for this? It's the fault of people who made a lot of money from us while spending a lot of our money and mortgaging our future. . . . How do we make sure most importantly, that this never happens again?"

Erik Bleich, professor of political science, argued that stay bonuses actually encourage administrators to leave once they receive their full bonus.

"If I put myself in the position of someone who's about to get a $500,000 pay out and then look the next year at the measly salary of $240,000, it's an incentive to leave, an incentive to leverage that moment to exit," Bleich said.

Earlier in his presentation, Provost stated that he had in fact been the recipient of a retention bonus at Champlain College, where he worked before coming to Middlebury.

"I had one previously at Champlain during the last presidential transition," Provost said. "I had played a very active role in the transformation of Champlain, so they tied my hands for four years knowing they wanted me there. That had expired this past June, so when I started a conversation with Laurie, that wasn't hanging over my head."

In outlining potential reforms to the current executive pay system, Patton said that she and Provost were open to the idea of formulating stay bonuses in accordance with employees' individual performance. She also said she was committed to maintaining the costs of and reducing the size of the Senior Leadership Group (SLG), citing that the costs of the SLG were already $30,000 less than they were last year.

Patton said that the college had decided not to award any employee making over $200,000 a raise last year, and shared information regarding her own salary, emphasizing that her take home pay is even less than that listed on the 990 tax form where the college reports executive pay.

"I do not have a retention bonus and my salary is $575,000," Patton said. "I tied in scholarships and in fact I just finished my taxes, and with all the other charitable deductions I actually make about three-fifths of that. I am happy to share anything more about my own finances if you'd like to talk."

Patton also reiterated her commitment to paying administrators in accordance with a "market rate."

"To ask anyone to do these really tough jobs, tougher than they've ever been, and not pay market rate for folks to do these jobs doesn't seem fair to either the candidates or to Middlebury," Patton said.

Provost explained that the college decides on executive compensation by reviewing market information and by analyzing peer institutions. Patton then recommends executive compensation to the compensation committee, which is made up of the board chair, vice chair, resource committee chair and one additional board member. The compensation committee then approves the President's recommendations.

Provost's presentation compared peer institutions' executive pay to Middlebury's. The college's total executive pay of $4.1 million dollars was higher than the $3.6 million average of it's peer institutions.

Rick Bunt, a chemistry professor, argued that this gap of 14 percent between the peer group average suggested that the compensation committee did not actually base executive pay off of a "market value."

"These institutions, Williams, Amherst, all have endowments at least twice our size," Bunt said. "So our compensation for our top executives is supposed to be market driven, but its 14 percent above average."

Bunt argued that this is unfair to faculty and staff, given their comparative wages.

"I'm pretty sure our faculty compensation is not 14 percent above average, and I'm really, really sure that our staff compensation is not 14 percent above average," Bunt said. "We're committed to paying market rate for our executives for running the school, why shouldn't we pay market rate to the staff and faculty who actually do the hard work of educating the students?"

Provost explained that the stay bonuses, which will apparently continue to decline in number and value, were responsible for this 14 percent difference.

While Provost revealed that the college does not review staff compensation in the context of a such a "market rate" every year, he said that he and Patton hope to establish faculty compensation at an above average rate compared to their peers. He also said that most college staff actually earn above average wages.

"Laurie is not trying to pay the executives here differently than the faculty or the staff. That is not a goal," Provost said. "It is our intention to pay our faculty at above market median. On the staff compensation, we are for the most part above the median, there are a few exceptions. We've been working with human resources to conduct a compensation study that will address that."

Provost said that he hoped sharing the 990 tax forms with faculty sooner would help increase transparency.

"I don't want to speak especially for the past board," Provost said. "The folks on the resource committee are in that way of thinking, of saying if we see a 990 two years after the fact, that's not prevention, that's not awareness of what's going on, so why aren't we communicating these in real time when that's happening? And you heard Laurie say she's open to that conversation. So if that was in place that would help prevent it before it's old news."

Provost also announced that former President Ronald Liebowitz received a sizeable payout, the quantity of which will be released in early May with the disclosure of the FY '17 990.

In their questions for Provost, faculty members criticized the conduct of past and present administrators, as well as some of the potential methods they feared the college would take to save money in the future.

Susan Burch, a professor of American studies, said that Provost and Cason brought up adjusting healthcare plans in their meeting with faculty earlier in the week.

"I'm very concerned to hear that [health care] might be leveraged. Please don't do that," she said.

While Provost said that he believes the college spends too much on healthcare, he clarified that they have delayed the decision on changing healthcare another year at the earliest due to employee concerns.

"Our existing health benefits at $25,000 a family, it's too much, we're going to spend $422,000 this year on massage therapy," Provost said. "You as faculty have to come to the table and say this isn't about destroying people's healthcare. I couldn't agree with you more. My concern is we can't even have the conversation because that is what is inferred. I don't like that we're paying $25,000 per family, it's probably not worth it, but I hope we can find common ground on some things we should talk about."

Though Provost had no control over the order of the meeting agenda, history professor Rebecca Bennette expressed frustration that Provost's presentation was the final one in a nearly four-hour long meeting.

"I'm deeply disturbed that you basically waited us out until almost everyone left and Laurie's not even here to be here for this conversation. This should have been first," Bennette said.

John Schmitt, a professor of mathematics, defended Provost and encouraged faculty to view him as an ally.

"I've been working with David since September and we have an opportunity here that didn't exist under the previous administration," Schmitt said. "David is looking to empower us to make good decisions about our future. We're not going to get Ron's payment back. And I'm hopeful that we see David as an ally."

However, faculty continued to voice criticisms. Tamar Mayer, a geography professor, suggested selling the Middlebury Institute at Monterey in order to save money, to which several faculty voiced support.

Provost replied that though this might not be off-limits, it is not a simple fix to the college's financial problems, and there are reasons to keep the Institute.

"The spirit of my approach is that I want everything on the table," Provost said. "But if we're serious about a conversation about things we want to explore, for me we're the only one of those peer institutions up there that has a physical campus in the backyard of Silicon Valley. We have not leveraged a resource that we decided to invest in and it sits out there."

Erik Bleich, professor of political science, issued Provost a warning.

"The decisions that have been made in the past, and some of the current administrators were involved in those decisions, were a disaster," Bleich said. "I want you all on warning. Don't let this happen again."

Bennette argued that the current administration should begin to take more responsibility for the financial state of the college.

"We're three years into this presidency now. And I'm not saying this was the greatest inheritance to come in to as a president. But you can play a hand of cards good or you can play it poorly, and I think a lot of people think it was not played that well."

Provost urged faculty to view the college's financial problems as more complex than a simple issue of executive overcompensation, and to recognize some of the positive conditions at the college.

"If we think Middlebury's financial difficulties are caused by executive compensation, we won't solve our problems," Provost said. "Is there some responsibility there? Absolutely. But we are a very privileged organization. We have a lot of employees. We pay people well. Our benefits are off the charts. And if we aren't willing to put everything on the table, we aren't going to solve these problems."

Twitter Troll Was 'Weak'

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alt-right. Nehlan is challenging current Speaker of the House Paul Ryan in the Republican Primary for Wisconsin's first congressional district.

Mackey attended Harwood Union High School in Waterbury, Vermont, before matriculating at Middlebury in the fall of 2008. He was an economics major and a member of the track and field team for one semester. Mackey's roster photo still remains available on the college athletics website.

"I do not remember much about him. He was a boy who I let walk on the team," said Martin Beatty, the head track and field coach. "He was pretty slow and weak. He wasn't on the team for more than a year, if he even made it through the entire year."

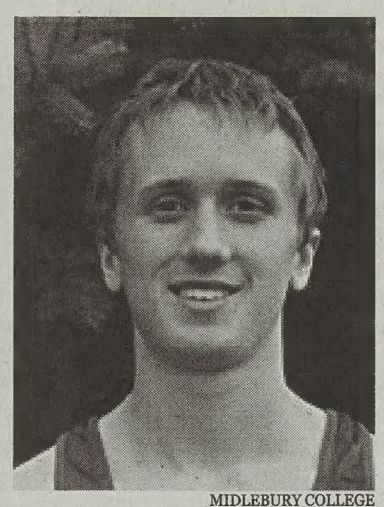
In spite of his short tenure on the team, Mackey was quoted twice in The Campus in the winter of 2009. His generic quotes speak to the strength of the team, the support between the men's and women's teams, and his hope that they would maintain their momentum.

The Campus reached out to economics professors who taught at the college between 2008 and 2011 and may have taught Mackey. Fifteen professors responded that he either had not been in his or her class or that they had no recollection of him.

Though Paul Sommers, an economics professor, did not recall having Mackey in class, after checking his records he found that Mackey was in fact enrolled in his Economic Statistics class in the spring of 2009. He remained enrolled in the course for the whole semester, but Sommers said there was no record of Mackey having turned in any assignments or completed any exams.

After graduating in 2011, Mackey moved to New York and has remained active in the college's network. Mackey donated to the college in 2011 and did so for three or more consecutive years. He also attended reunion in 2016 and a holiday reception in New York City in Dec. 2016.

Mackey's father, Scott Mackey '85, also attended the college, graduating with a degree in economics and environmental studies. After graduating, Scott Mackey worked as a legislative assistant to then-Republican Vermont Senator James Jeffords. Jeffords left the Republican Party and began caucusing with the Democrats in 2001.



MIDLEBURY COLLEGE

Mackey's track & field roster picture.

Scott Mackey currently lives in Vermont and works as a lobbyist with a focus on tax policy. In response to The Campus's request for comment, Scott Mackey sent the identical statement that appeared in the Huffington Post on behalf of him and his wife Kathy.

"We were devastated to learn this week of Doug's beliefs and online activities as reported in the Huffington Post," the statement read. "They are antithetical to the values we hold and with which he was raised. We are still trying to understand how he could have done something like this and hope he will find some way to make amends for the harm he has caused."

Doug Mackey did not respond to The Campus's request for com-

WHITE NATIONALIST PROPOGANDA FOUND IN LIB

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Fernández echoed this sentiment, although he is not involved in the ongoing investigation. Elizabeth Burchard, the college's director of public safety, said no suspects have been identified.

"We're working with other area colleges who've had similar incidents involving stickers. The incidents in Burlington are being investigated by law enforcement," Burchard said. Public Safety notified Middlebury law enforcement of the incident as well.

The bias response team sent its last bias report to the student body in October. It outlined two incidents in which faculty and students were verbally assaulted with racist language. The preceding incident occurred in May, when a homophobic slur was keyed into a faculty member's truck.

"This [incident in the library] feels different," Fernández said. "It was a targeted, planned event that mirrors events on other campus libraries. Previous events we have dealt with on our campus seemed much more spontaneous."

The library is currently open to the public during designated hours. The staff have been instructed to call public safety or the police if they see suspicious activity and phones are located within workspaces for this reason.

Michael Roy, dean of the library, did not have any comment on increasing the security of the library.

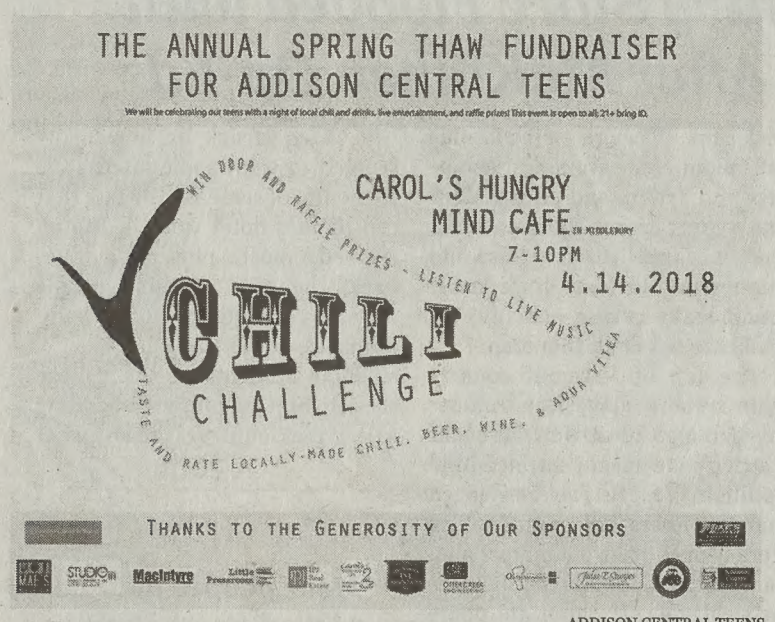
Addison Central Teens to Host Chili Challenge

By JAEHEE PARK
Contributing Writer

This Saturday, April 14, Addison Central Teens (ACT) is holding their annual fundraiser for the teen center. The event will take place from 7-10 pm at Carol's Hungry Mind Café in Middlebury.

The theme this year is Spring Thaw: Chili Challenge. In the wake of this year's cancellation of the traditional Chili Fest during the 2018 Winter Carnival, the teen center hopes to revive the tradition for a good cause. The fundraising competition will feature ten competitors, including the Glass Onions culinary program from the Hannaford Career Center, teenagers from the teen center and the unified basketball team from Middlebury Union High School.

Attendees will be able to taste and rate the competitors' chili, as well as sample beverages provided by local businesses. On the way out, people can vote for the top three chili recipes, and the winner will be announced in the Addison County Independent. In addition, attendees can win a variety of door and raffle prizes, which will include a $50 gift card to Tinker and Smith Game Store, a $25 gift card to Rough Cut, two Marquis Theater tickets and a round of golf for four at Middlebury College.


THE ANNUAL SPRING THAW FUNDRAISER
FOR ADDISON CENTRAL TEENS
We will be celebrating our teens with a night of local chili and drinks, live entertainment, and raffle prizes! This event is open to all; 21+ bring ID.
CAROL'S HUNGRY MIND CAFE IN MIDDLEBURY
7-10PM
4.14.2018
WIN DOOR AND RAFFLE PRIZES - LISTEN TO LIVE MUSIC
CHILI
CHALLENGE
TASTE AND RATE LOCALLY-MADE CHILI, BEER, WINE, & AQUA VITEA
THANKS TO THE GENEROSITY OF OUR SPONSORS

ADDISON CENTRAL TEENS

The chili fundraiser competition aims to raise money for the teen center to fund the various activities it hosts throughout the year. In addition to organizing community service opportunities and hosting special events for teenagers, ACT also provides drop-in hours each week as a safe after-school alternative for students in the area. All proceeds from the chili event will help fund programming expenses such as food, and will aid in bringing additional structure to the center to keep helping local teenagers.

Hoping to make the event more accessible to college students, ACT has provided two ticket options with different prices. The comprehensive $25 ticket option includes chili, drink tickets and raffle tickets, while the cheaper $15 alternative includes chili and an option to choose between drink tickets or raffle tickets.

Of the ten competing teams, two represent student groups from Middlebury College: Hillel and the Weybridge house. Hillel, the social, cultural and religious Jewish organization, and Weybridge, a unique residential option focused on sustainability in food issues, will both be making chili at the fundraiser. Middlebury work-study students Mikayla Hyman and Vir Chachra are also helping to plan and run the event. In addition, two college student music groups, Stuck in the Middle and Nuanced Binary: A Guitar Duo, will provide live entertainment.

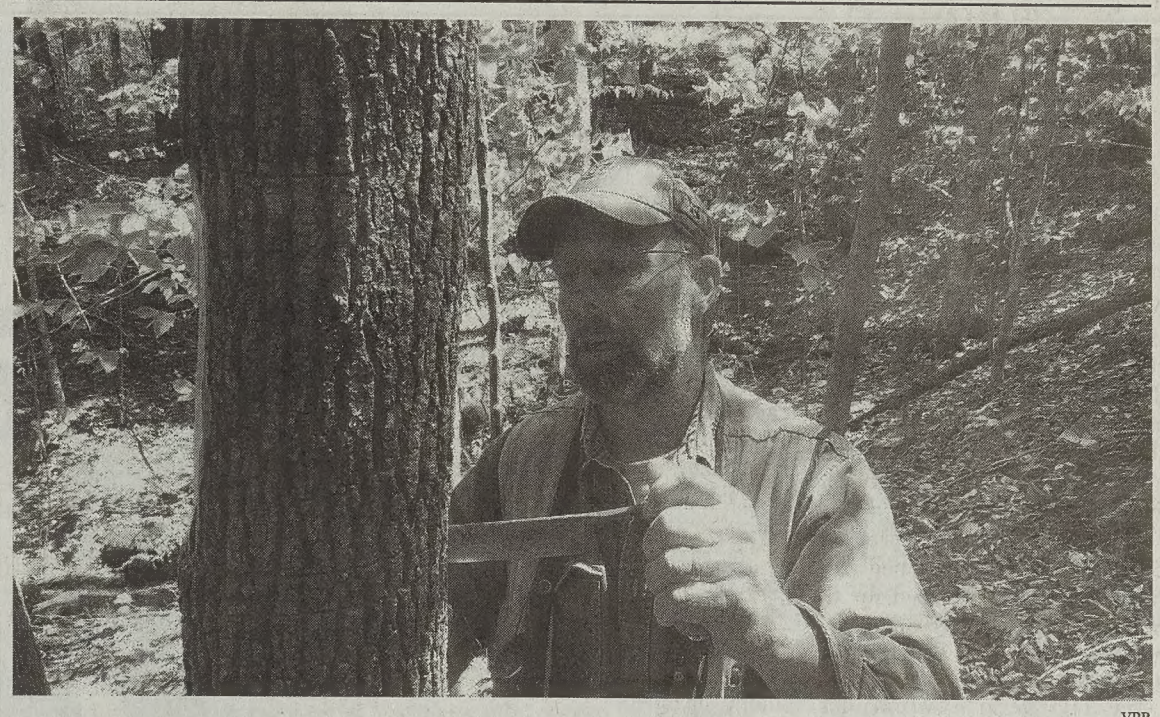
The current executive director of the teen center, Zoe Kaslow, graduated from Middlebury College in 2015 and is excited about working closely with the College on ACT projects. "One of the things I really wanted to achieve as a new director was that I really wanted more involvement directly from the college," Kaslow said. "During college I really stayed in the bubble. Now that I'm living in Addison County, I feel it's really important to be part of the community." Before her job at the teen center, Kaslow also worked as a temporary employee for the college's Center for Community Engagement after moving back to Middlebury.

Despite her optimism, Kaslow noted some obstacles in organizing the event. "I've only been at the teen center for ten weeks, so I've really had to hit the ground running to start planning this event," she said. "Luckily, I've had a tremendous board, helping facilitate the event and everything, as well as a ton of support from community businesses." Local organizations providing sponsorships include Mae's Place, Studio III Architecture, Carol's Hungry Mind Café, Middlebury Eye Associates and The Little Pressroom, among others.

While the fundraiser is the same night as the annual spring concert at Middlebury College, featuring Joey Badass, Kaslow notes that the fundraiser runs from 7-10pm, which gives college students ample time to attend both events.

Kaslow has more ideas for the future and hopes the chili competition will be the first step towards expanding levels of cooperation between college students and the community of Addison county. Kaslow hopes to hire a college student to be an intern for the summer camp for teens and is looking for new work-study students. She also wants to get more directly involved with the educational studies or psychology events at Middlebury to create a more cohesive community between the college and the town.

"It's a little different than the chili fest. It's a fundraiser for students to still enjoy but recognize it as an intimate gathering," Kaslow explained. "I'm really excited for this and hoping to see more Middlebury college students at the teen center, especially those who want to get more involved and learn more about the center." Additionally, Kaslow said that if Middlebury college students are interested in volunteering, there will be opportunities to help on the day of the event.



VPR

Forester Jim Esden uses a tool to entice the insects from a tree.

'They're Everywhere': The Emerald Ash Borer Strikes Vermont

By APRIL QIAN
Staff Writer

MIDDLEBURY — Two months ago, both the Vermont Department of Forests, Parks and Recreation and the Vermont Agency of Agriculture, Foods and Markets reported a sighting of Emerald Ash Borers in northern Orange County, Vermont. An exotic beetle native to China, eastern Russia, Japan and Korea, the Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) is an invasive species that targets all types of ash. First found near Detroit in 2002, the Ash Borer has spread rapidly throughout North America, and its invasion in Vermont has long been anticipated. None of Vermont's native ash trees are known to be resistant to the pest.

"They're everywhere," said Tim Parsons, Middlebury College's Landscape Horticulturist, of the ash trees on campus. "I can stand on the front steps of the Chapel and point to four, and I can stand on the back steps and point to eight more." The main campus of Middlebury College has 182 ash trees, constituting roughly 8.7 percent of the campus' tree community. On the Green Mountains, ash make up about 10-15 percent of trees, but they are not as congregated as they are on Middlebury's main campus.

Since 2010, Parsons has taught a J-term class every few years called "Trees and the Urban Forest," which centers on the ecological and aesthetic value of the forest in an urban setting. In past years, the class has developed emergency preparedness plans against the invasion of the Emerald Ash Borers for both the town of Middlebury and the College. In 2015, the class made a plan to survey all the ash on campus, devise strategies for treatment or removal of ash trees and consider options for replanting. On a website called EAB at Middlebury College (go/EAB), two students from the 2015 J-term class estimated the total cost for the injection, removal and replacement of ash trees on campus would reach approximately $500,000.

A map of trees on campus, made by a group of students in 2002 but last updated in January of 2014, shows congregations of ash behind Ross commons, a grove of almost exclusively ash in front of the Atwater commons house near the Trail Around Middlebury and a patch of ash behind Proctor, most of which was removed before the construction of the Ridgeline Suites. Other conspicuous spots of ash include three large structures near Forest Hall and several in the northwest corner of Battell Beach, on which many students hang hammocks on warmer days. Though ash account for less than 10 percent of the campus' tree population, small stands of ash trees often serve as prominent landscape features, meaning that their removal will result in noticeable gaps in the Middlebury landscape.

> ***"They're everywhere."***

Nevertheless, the position of many ash trees near key structures such as residence halls and dining halls may necessitate their removal. Smaller than a penny, an ash borer will bore through the inner bark and likely result in the death of entire trees. A survey in 2015 by students in Parsons' class located 658 "hazardous" trees found within 50 feet of roads, sidewalks and parking lots.

Once an ash has been infested, it has on average between two to four years to live. Out of concern for the safety of students and members of the college community, landscape facilities will likely have to remove infested trees before a year has passed.

As Parsons explained with a touch of cynical humor, "One of the definitions of a tree is that it's a large plant that, when it falls on someone, may kill them."

When implemented on a larger scale, however, mass-removals of ash may become detrimental to local flora and fauna. Professor Stephen Trombulak, a landscape ecologist, said that a drastic loss of ash trees "will mean that there will be a lot of dead trees in the forest, which will almost certainly alter all aspects of forest ecosystems, including but not limited to nutrient cycling, soil retention, abundance of species that specialize on dead and decaying wood, soil moisture content, soil temperature, fire intensity and frequency and the abundance and density of plant species that do well in forest gaps."

The loss of large amounts of ash could have unexpected repercussions for other industries as well. For example, most Major League Baseball bats are made of ash because the hardwood is not inclined to splinter and shatter. Middlebury College's own replicas of Gamaliel Painter's cane, given out to all seniors at Commencement, are made of ash.

The most abundant use of ash by far is as firewood. It is possible that ash removed from campus in the near future may be burned in the biomass plant to provide energy for campus consumption. The invasion of this pest, however, brings with it quarantines and regulations on the transportation of firewood, which will almost certainly affect log prices in the area.

Parsons' approach is to wait until it is absolutely necessary to cut down the ash. Neither at-

Continued on A4

Wheeli Streamlines Transportation at College

By SABINE POUX
News Editor

MIDDLEBURY — Middlebury's "Free & For Sale" Facebook group boasts a cacophony of ride requests and offers. Before and after school breaks, the group is inundated with posts by people hoping to connect with fellow commuters to travel in and out of an area where far-reaching public transport can seem scarce.

The volume of posts and disorganized nature of the group make it difficult for students to find the rides they need. A young startup, called Wheeli, hopes to streamline this ridesharing process by allowing students to request, solicit and find rides with other students through its mobile-accessible online interface. The app, which launched at Middlebury last fall, allows its users, endearingly dubbed "Wheelsters," to connect with other students from both theirs and other universities to find rides.

Wheeli's three co-founders, Jean-Pierre Adéchi, Steve Delor and Alexandre Ayache, brought the startup to the University of Vermont (UVM) in 2015 when it was just a website. Since then, it has expanded into both iOS and Android apps, with 38% of the UVM campus participating.

Since launching at Middlebury, the Wheeli team has signed up 100 students. The first rides from Middlebury took place in February.

CEO and co-founder Adéchi says he realized there was a place for Wheeli at Middlebury when he saw that Midd students were already carpooling with students from UVM.

"It was an indication for us that there was a need for us to invite Middlebury to join our community of students carpooling on Wheeli," he said.

The app is also currently expanding to the schools in the Five College Consortium in Amherst, Massachusetts, as well as to colleges in Connecticut and Rhode Island. As of now, it is operating as a free platform.

According to Dylan Philbrick, a senior at the UVM Grossman School of Business who works on the company's development and marketing team, Wheeli enhances students' travel experiences by creating social connections, decreasing their collective carbon emissions and making travel cheaper for everyone involved.

"Wheeli is the carpooling app for college students and we try to hit three areas: social, environmental and economic," he said. "So we're trying to make carpooling cool again, hitchhiking cool again."

As hitchhiking is often associated with a plethora of safety risks, Wheeli exclusively allows students with school emails ending in ".edu" to sign up for the app. Students also must verify their student status by entering a confirmation code sent to their email and creating a short profile on the website.

Following registration, students can post about upcoming road trips or search for/request rides from other Wheelsters. The app also generates a seat price for each passenger based on gas costs and other expenses, like tolls, using information about the fuel efficiency of the driver's car and the mileage of the trip. This price is just a suggestion, and the driver may choose to raise or lower it. Passengers can complete all transactions through the app.

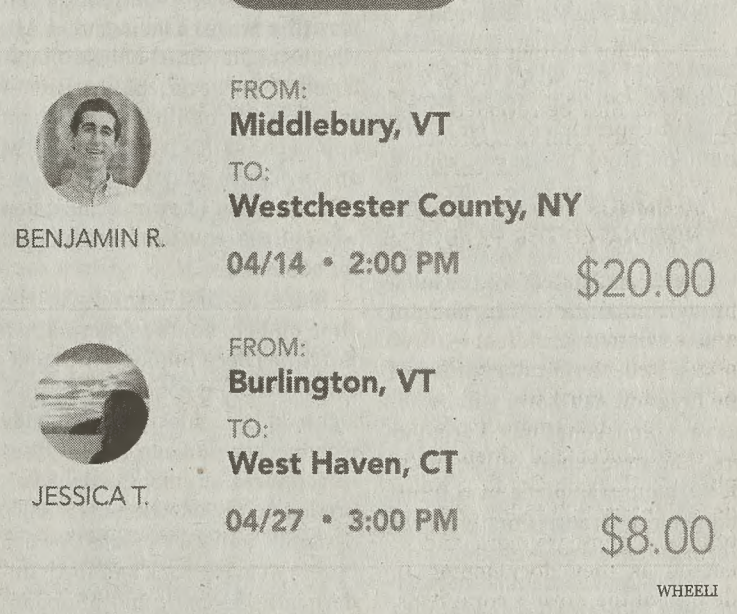
Students looking for rides can filter through options posted on the Wheeli site and app to find the best options for them. As with driver-for-hire apps like Uber, the app also allows drivers and passengers to rate each other using a five-star system. Female-identifying students have the additional option of only riding with other women.

Adéchi came up with the idea for the app while carpooling during a trip to Europe. He enjoyed the social aspect of ridesharing most, and wanted to bring his experience back to the states.

The Wheeli team also found inspiration in the college ridesharing model of the pre-Facebook generations, when students would post flyers advertising and requesting rides on bulletin boards around campus.

"Wheeli really originates to that pushpin board, that's really the grassroots of it," Philbrick said.

He added that Wheeli is unique because it allows any student to participate on either the driver or passenger end of a carpool.



WHEELI

"When we started, there was no one really out there doing what we're doing," he said. "There are other ridesharing apps and driver-for-hire apps, but in this case, everyone can be a driver and everyone can be a rider if they have a license and they're a student."

Though rider data is private, Philbrick said the app has received positive feedback at Middlebury.

The Wheeli team sought to bring the app to UVM and Middlebury in part because of Vermonters' proclivity for environmentalism. What's more, Vermont's rural setting can make it difficult for students to travel.

"For someone like me, who came from Manhattan and didn't have a car, I went to UVM, I felt really isolated until we were able to get Wheeli as a functional and efficient transportation network for students," said Philbrick, who helped bring Wheeli to UVM during his first year at Grossman. He added that Wheeli can help students travel around Vermont to enjoy the states' natural attractions and ski mountains.

Currently, the Addison County

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Diner Converted to Storage

Continued from Page A1

commented on the possible inclusion of an eatery in the theater's future plans for The Diner space, as one might be beneficial for intermissions and conferences.

Located right next door to the Town Hall Theater, the purchased space at 66 Merchants Row could not be more ideal. The THT's long-term plan is to remove the original diner building and construct an addition to the theater— "THT 2.0," as Anderson calls it. This new building could extend back behind the Clinton Smith carriage house, as far as the diner property reaches, and would solve much of the theater's trouble with space shortage.

The THT began searching for such a real estate opportunity two years ago, when the theater's overflow became so great that the board formed a committee whose sole purpose was to find a second property to rent or buy. However, the THT has been dealing with a lack of space for much longer.

"It's not commonly known, but we were short of space on the day we opened," Anderson said in an interview with the Addison County Independent. "There is no storage. There is precious little office space. We don't have a scene shop. We need a second rehearsal space. We've known all of this for quite some time."

Two whole years passed without any luck for the THT committee, which Anderson jokingly blames on Middlebury's "success" in sustaining businesses.

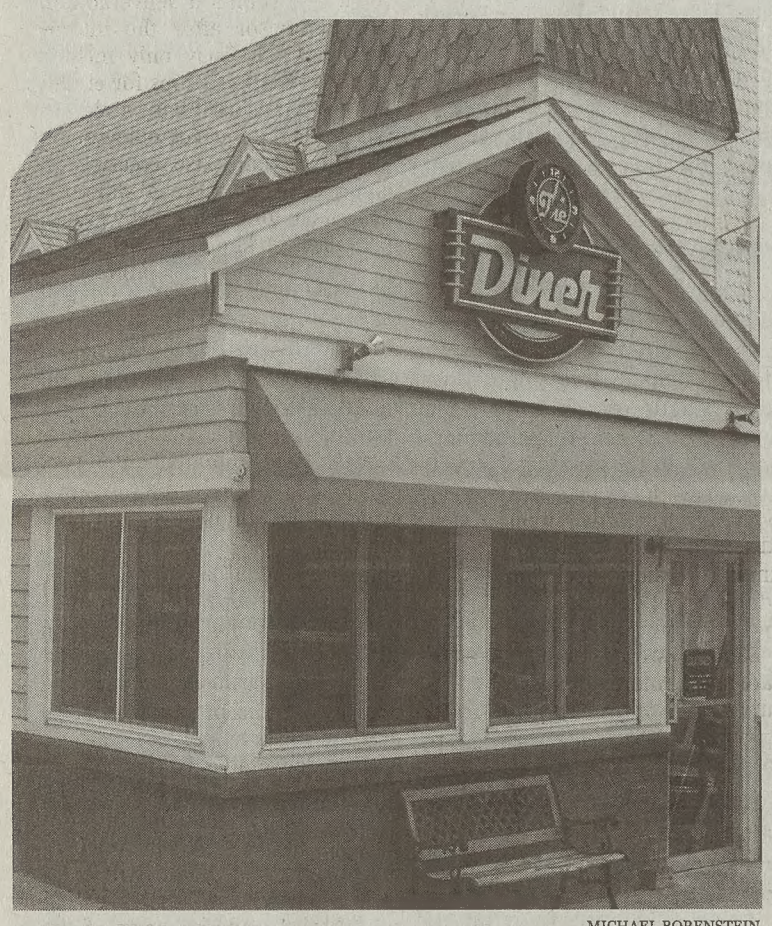
"There isn't any leftover space," Anderson said in the same interview. "What we wouldn't have given for an abandoned factory or an empty schoolhouse. They just don't exist."

When The Diner appeared on the market six weeks ago, the THT board "didn't even have to discuss it," Anderson said. The property was exactly what they had been looking for.

Anderson noted that the THT's plan for the property was indeed a "long-term" one. "It could be three, five or 10 years before we (a) figure out exactly what we need to move into the future, and (b) raise the money to fulfill whatever the dream is," he said. Astonishingly though, the THT was able to raise the funds ($300,000) to purchase The Diner in just two weeks, thanks to the donations of about 15 generous community members.

"I think it says a lot about people's desire to keep the arts in the community," THT board President Benj Deppman said of the pledges in an interview with the Addison County Independent. "It also says a lot about Doug and the quality we put on the stage."

Doug Anderson originally led the communal purchase of the THT building in 2000, when its previous owners, the Knights of Columbus, could no longer take on the great amount of repairs it needed. Anderson, a resident of Middlebury for 15 years, rallied a group of community members and organizations to support the purchase of the building, which eventually sold for $275,000. According to the THT website, some of the theater's earliest support came from Middlebury College itself. Anderson reopened the space as a non-profit corporation, and has led the Town Hall Theater to where it is today.



MICHAEL BORENSTEIN

The neighboring theater hopes to use the diner as storage space.

Emerald Ash Borer

Continued from Page A3

tempts at eradicating the ash borer nor removing all the ash in the area have been successful in the 31 other states that have been infested. It is estimated that only one percent of ash in an infested area survive, so efforts to regenerate ash seedlings and saplings in Vermont forests are crucial.

"An ash borer's immediate range is not very far. It could take them five, ten years to get here," Parsons speculated. "Or they could get stuck to the windshield of a car and get here tomorrow morning." One of the major pathways of travel for the Emerald Ash Borers is facilitated by humans, through interstate transport of infested firewood.

Key in deterring the spread of the Emerald Ash Borer will be observant and conscious Vermonters. The first report of the insect in Vermont was made by a forest manager in Orange County on the Vermont Invasives website.

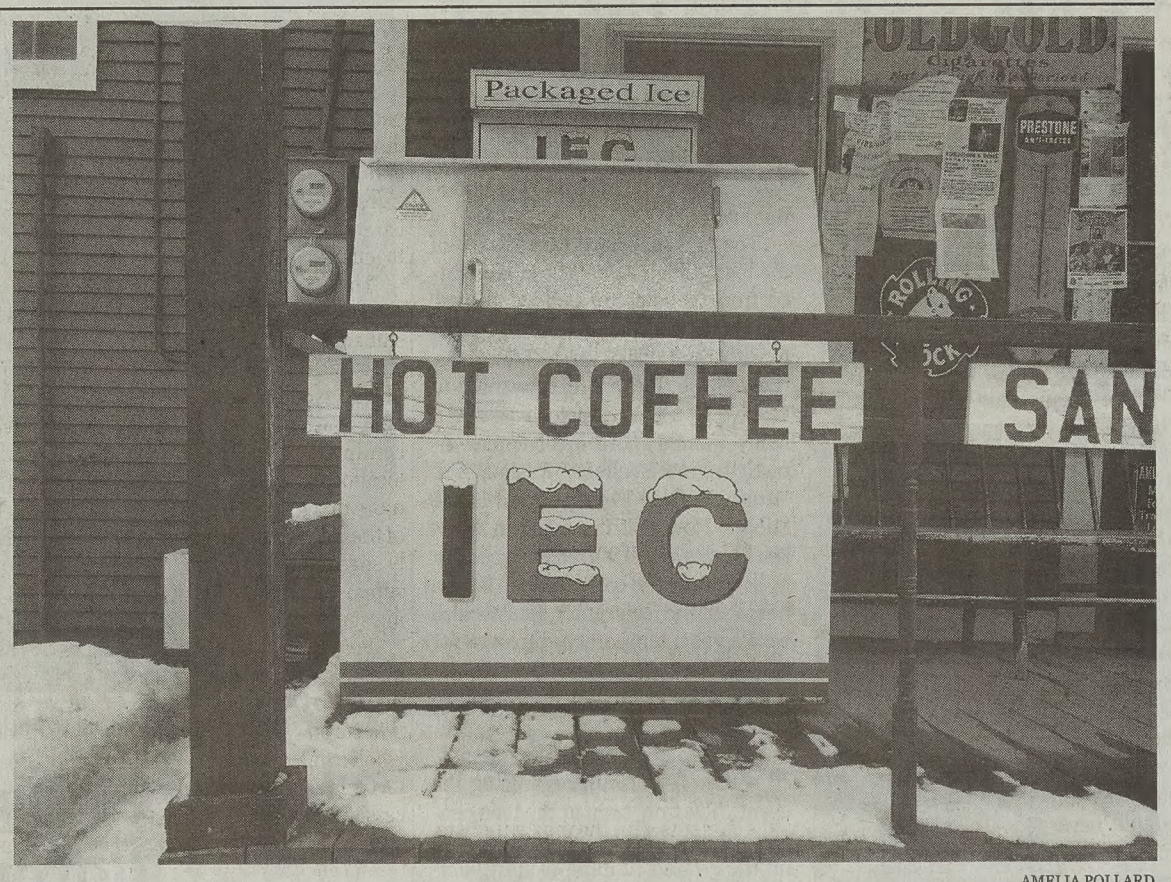
Professor Trombulak suggested that "Vermonters should be responding to this issue by not moving potentially-infested firewood from one location to another, reporting sightings of EAB immediately and planting ash trees whenever possible in the hopes that the seed pool for those species can be maintained until an effective management plan can be implemented."

Another method of response, Parsons said, is injecting infested trees biannually with pesticide, but such a short-term solution is neither cost effective nor implementable on a large scale under facilities' current budget. Though some are investigating the use of bio-controls such as woodpeckers or parasitic wasps to control ash borers as a "last ditch effort" to combat the invasive species, the effectiveness of such measures has yet to be determined. Professor Trombulak says that "there is speculation that an increase in EAB will lead to woodpeckers and parasitic wasps feeding on EAB, which might control their populations." However, he warned of the unpredictability of such an approach, as he is "not aware of any evidence that predator control has been shown in locations where EAB have been established for some time."

Since its first sighting in the state on Feb. 20, the Emerald Ash Borer has been found in two additional Vermont counties. Tell-tale signs of an infestation include woodpecker damage to live trees in the form of smooth, light colored patches on the outer bark, S-shaped galleries created by ash borers weaving back and forth underneath the bark and abundant D-shaped ash borer exit holes on the trunk of a tree.

Trees serve an essential, albeit often underappreciated, role in the Middlebury landscape. Parsons' enthusiasm for the trees on campus is as clear as it is contagious. "I'd say I have about twelve [favorite trees on campus]," he admitted. "They're like your kids—you can't pick just one."

"It's heartbreaking," Parsons said, grieving for the ash that we will undoubtedly lose in the next few years. "I can't stress that enough."



AMELIA POLLARD

The iconic "I-E-C" box situated on the porch of the Ripton Country Store.

Ripton Country Store Flooded with Responses After McKibben Op-Ed

By AMELIA POLLARD
Local Editor

RIPTON — At the end of March, a local business had the most far-reaching for-sale notice imaginable. In an op-ed in The New York Times, Middlebury scholar-in-residence and 350.org founder Bill McKibben lauded the Ripton Country Store in an effort to help its owners find a buyer. The store has been nestled on Route 125 since 1879, and owned by the same couple, Dick and Sue Collitt, since 1976.

The Ripton Country Store serves as something of a time capsule. Upon entering, you see hundreds of old glass bottles lining the top shelf to your right, a pot-bellied stove peeking out from the back and other shelves crammed with such food necessities as Vermont maple syrup. Residents come for chit-chat and scraps of local news, as much as the "lasagna noodles, rock salt, kitty litter, meatloaf mix, clothespins, starch and cupcake papers" – to name a few of the goods listed in McKibben's piece, which shot to the top of the New York Times's most-emailed list of articles.

In short, little has changed over the 139 years of the store's existence.

In the mid-1970s, after Dick Collitt spotted an ad in The Wall Street Journal for the country store, the couple and their two sons fled the Pennsylvania suburbs with the aim of unearthing a simpler life in the Green Mountains. After 42 years, they are ready to retire. Before McKibben's piece ricocheted across the country, the store had been on the market for nearly a year without any promising offers. Since the op-ed, however, things have changed.

"The response has been tremendous," Dick said. "The realtor has had over 50 responses from people who really think they want to buy it. He's just a little one-man shop. I don't even think he has a secretary and he's doing pretty well with it."

Indeed, interest in taking over the Ripton Country Store has emerged from all over the United States. Most of the people who have contacted the realtor are, in fact, from outside Vermont, with aspirations similar to those that the Collitts had when they purchased the store.

The desire to escape the "Twittery Trumpy twitchy mainstream," as McKibben described in his article, is a modern-day version of the unhinged 1970s, when the country was still reeling from the Vietnam War, Watergate and race riots. "The idea resonates with the people who are responding," Dick said. "They're seeing all this shit about trade wars and shootings and Trump and all this stuff that's going on and Bill paints this picture of this little tiny town and this warm and fuzzy little store. And it really is true, actually! We really are out of all that crap."

The life of Vermont country store owners may seem romantic, but McKibben did not paint a strictly idealized portrait of the Collitts' life. He acknowledged that the hours are onerous. The store is open from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. on weekdays, and 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. on weekends. It closes its doors only on Christmas. On Thanksgiving, for instance, the store is open for a few hours so locals can grab a forgotten package of stuffing or can of cranberry sauce.

The work of the Collitts does not go unnoticed by the community, however. At the annual town meeting this year, residents showed their gratitude to the store owners. Along with a tribute in the Town Report, members of the community rose for a standing ovation and a rendition of "You Are My Sunshine."

"The town really appreciates us," Collitt said. "Afterwards there was a cake in the shape of the store that said, 'Thanks Dick and Sue.'"

The risk that the store might not continue in its current vein—or worse, close all together—has residents worried, especially given the trajectory of some other local businesses that have recently fallen by the wayside. McKibben notes the importance of the country store for Middlebury as well, noting that the loss of Dog Team Tavern rocked the community.

"We really need this store to stay open for the town, and I think for the college too: I've been hearing from alumni all week who have stories of stopping in en route to Rikert or the Bowl or Breadloaf, and remember it fondly," said McKibben in an interview. "After the demise of the Dog Team Tavern, a lot of the local institutions have passed on. It would be a shame to lose a real landmark."

The lack of cell service in Ripton also means that new owners would have to be comfortable with the prospect of some separation from screens. "We don't get cell service up here," Collitt said. "Almost everybody is getting away from that. Most people who've picked up on it are doing just what we did in 1976; they're just getting away from the suburbs and all that."

The allure of returning to a simpler time and unplugging from myriad electronics that dominate everyday life resonated with readers, according to McKibben. "I've been struck by how many seemed to want some alternative to the life of screens--the fact that cell phones don't work in Ripton seemed almost a plus, not a drawback," he said. "I think people may be yearning for actual communities, not virtual ones."

Some students at the college are also bracing for the impending sale of the Country Store and what it might mean for the community. Charlie Mitchell '18 perhaps took the McKibben piece more personally than other students. As a Food Systems major with ties to the local community through Middlebury Foods, he already has a stake in place.

> ***"Most people who've picked up on it are doing just what we did in 1976; hey're just getting away from the suburbs and all that."***

"When I saw the piece," he said, "it really struck me as an opportunity—an unprecedented opportunity to flip the script on what we expect of students when they graduate and what we aspire to in our lives."

Mitchell soon began to ponder the possibility of taking over the store with several partners. He envisions teaming up with five others and sharing the responsibility of operating the business over a 30-year period, allowing each to also pursue other endeavors.

"I think locating that uncertainty on something like a country store isn't to fetishize the lifestyle or commodify it," he said. "It's to really ground our ideas for our future."

On the cusp of entering the "real world," a time of near-constant contemplation and questioning, the idea of a "simpler life" appealed to Mitchell as well. While he has consulted financial advisors to gauge the feasibility of buying the store, he says he is in no way ready to sign a contract for the place.

"Seniors get kind of cut loose and there's a lot of loneliness, dissatisfaction and struggle in that time period," he said. "I'm not saying this is a way to run away from that struggle or to be afraid of that. But it is a total alternative vision for what life could be."

Amelia Pollard is a direct descendent of general store owners who opened their doors in Proctorsville, Vermont in 1860.

Wheeli Rolled Out at Midd

Continued from Page A3

Transit Resources (ACTR) shuttle and commuter bus systems offer students free to inexpensive rides to Burlington, Rutland and various destinations around the county. However, Middlebury students use ACTR mainly to get around town and to the Snow Bowl in the winter.

For more long-distance trips, the Student Government Association (SGA) sponsors discounted charter buses for students traveling to Boston, New York, and other popular locations at the beginning and ends of school breaks. Tickets typically cost between $35 and $65, with prices increasing in the weeks leading up to the breaks.

Apps like Wheeli provide an alternative for those who do not want to utilize public transport or who need to travel further than these options permit. The app especially strikes a chord with Middlebury students because so many students at the college have cars — Public Safety has issued 1,080 permits to student vehicles this year alone. Wheeli, unlike car rental services like Zipcar, allows students to carpool with students who already have cars at the college, offering a cheaper and more environmentallay friendly alternative.

Casey McConville '20 noted that she prefers ridesharing to public transport options like the buses. Before she had a car on campus, she tried Zipcar, buses and carpooling to get home to New York and to visit her boyfriend in Boston.

"I think that as a freshman, I lacked a lot of networks in which to look for rides, and I ended up taking a lot of buses," McConville said. "The problem with the bus system here is it usually takes you to Burlington and then takes you to whatever city you need to go to, which adds an extra two hours onto your trip because you're going north instead of south."

She added that she would have used Wheeli last year to find rides. Now that she has a car on campus, she would use Wheeli to connect with other people making the same trips.

Wheeli is currently live at Middlebury. To make an account, visit wheeli.us.

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A Chance to Work Together

By THE EDITORIAL BOARD

Last Friday, the SGA announced the creation of a new program called Middworks. "Middworks," an email sent to all students explained, "is a new program created [...] to share information and experiences and to build a greater common understanding among students, faculty and staff." In short, the program aims to foster better relationships among students and staff at the college. As the email attested, "this process starts not only with sharing our worldviews, but also with sharing our different lived experiences at Middlebury College."

In addition to outlining the new program, the email called for students to sign up for Work Alongside One Another. This, the first Middworks-sponsored event, offers students the opportunity to work shifts with Dining and Facilities services staff on April 16 and 19. Held in concert with Staff Appreciation Day (April 30), the event provides students with the opportunity to "learn more about the challenges and rewards experienced by the staff who help the campus function day-to-day."

Those who sign up for shifts on April 16 will join President Patton and the facilities staff to learn about the work done by facilities workers to maintain campus cleanliness and safety. On April 19, the opportunity likewise exists for students to work with treasurer David Provost and the dining staff to learn about the challenges of preparing meals for over 2,500 students. After shifts, participants are invited to share a meal and discuss community interests, issues and experiences which arise. This is a great idea, and the SGA and administration deserve credit for putting it together.

This paper's March 22 editorial "Our Staff Deserve Better" called for students and administration to increase efforts at recognizing the value of our facilities and dining staff. In light of widespread mess and vandalism in dorms, dining halls and other locations, we asked that students be more thoughtful about their treatment of the college environment, particularly spaces whose cleanliness forms the supposed responsibility of wage-earning staff.

For years, the staff members in question have shouldered preventable messes in dining halls and dorms. This reflects poorly on the student body as a whole. Simply put, we can do better. In recognition that true improvement necessitates collective effort by students and the administration, the same editorial called for improvements in staff wages. Just as students can do their part, so too can the administration. Only then can we demonstrate to Middlebury's wage-earning staff that they are more valuable to our school than current conditions suggest.

We believe that both Middworks and Work Alongside One Another constitute the first step in such a project. As was pointed out in the March 22 editorial, inconsideracy and carelessness on the part of students formed the core of the problem. As such, students themselves must take the initiative in order to reverse these trends. Work Alongside One Another provides students an opportunity to appreciate firsthand the work that wage-earning staff perform.

Listening as staff explain the intricacies, difficulties and joys of their job cannot be anything but rewarding for both parties involved. It allows the worker to convey the challenges involved in the tasks they perform, so that students might better understand the ramifications of their actions. If enough students attend, a tangible difference might be made in the system of student-staff relations on campus.

Although there are many more steps that our administration can and should take to better convey the value of our dining and facilities services staff, the most obvious being wage increases, the fact that Patton and Provost have chosen to dedicate their time to this program deserves recognition. We hope that their decision to participate is an indicator that more substantive action will come soon.

And so we call upon students to sign up for Work Alongside One Another. Put simply, it is the least we can do. Workers in facilities and dining services take pride in their jobs and are often eager to share their experiences, and the Work Alongside One Another presents us a valuable opportunity to listen.

Students can sign up through the survey in the email sent out by the SGA on April 6.

My Strength is My Strength

By LAUREN BOYD

Growing up, I always wanted to be able to run long distances. I always wanted to be faster, more "in shape." I thought my athleticism was defined by my ability to run, rather than how I competed in sports. I was led to believe that the kids able to run the longest distances were the best athletes. With this mindset, I felt behind on conditioning in comparison to my teammates. No matter how hard I practiced, how well I played or how often I ran, I felt defeated.

The constant disappointment led me to try winter track during my freshman year of high school, in order to get in shape for my spring lacrosse season. After a couple months of practice and a few meets, I was frustrated with my lack of progress. I struggled every practice and never felt that I was doing enough — I needed more.

In the midst of an athletic crisis, I made a promise to myself that I would take my anger out in the weight room. As runners dwindled after practice, I'd stay hours later, hitting the weights, working on explosiveness and power. It seemed to come naturally to me.

One night, my track coach approached me and acknowledged my presence in the weight room. He asked me to consider throwing shot put for the team, which would be a great opportunity to exhibit the strength and power I acquired in the weight room. I hesitantly agreed. Little did I know, it would change my life. As I started to throw, I realized my true talent rested in my strength.

I used to think the weight room was a characteristically male-dominated place. I imagined large, muscular boys "pumping iron" for hours on end, listening to hard rap music. I realized that wasn't the case; I could bench to Taylor Swift or Broadway music without feeling out of place, without feeling judged. The weight room became my safe haven.

Many women are afraid of weightlifting. They don't want to be bulky. They are scared of being called manly. Though our society is starting to warm up to the idea of the "strong woman," it has not reached normalcy. Women are still afraid to be viewed in that light.

We're born into the thought that being healthy is equivalent to being skinny. Healthy is relative. It has no shape or form. Yet, from a young age, our society defines health for us. It tells us that we have to look in the mirror and see a Barbie Doll figure staring back, or else we aren't in the majority.

Society likes to define "health" and "fitness," but every body is different. Every individual benefits from being active in different ways. I take pride in listening to my body, rather than forcing myself to be something I'm not. That's what health is, not whatever society likes to tell us it is.

Throughout my life, I feared being strong. I was afraid to look in the mirror and see muscle; I did not want to be "manly." I couldn't help but feel like an outcast for being built differently. Once I started lifting, however, the term "in shape" no longer rang heavily in my ears. I found confidence in the fact that I didn't need to run miles on end to feel good about myself. My definition of athleticism was not centered around running. I didn't feel "manly"; I didn't feel out of place. For the first time in my life, I felt healthy and fit.

Being a strong woman doesn't scare me anymore; it makes me who I am.

'School Safety' That Actually Makes Everyone Safer

By EMMA BLISKA

This Wednesday, Governor Phil Scott signed Senate Bill 55 into law. This landmark gun control legislation moved rapidly through the Vermont legislature following the shooting in Parkland, Fla. and a near-miss at Fair Haven Union High School in Rutland County. The bill includes extended background checks to private sales, an under-21 age restriction, a bump stock ban and magazine length restrictions.

During this process, many legislators underlined the need to keep students safe in school, some arguing to prioritize "school safety" legislation. On Friday, the Senate Judiciary Committee heard testimony on House Bill 675, known as the "school safety bill."

No reasonable person opposes the intention behind school safety — and certainly no politician wants to be heard saying "I oppose school safety!" — but we should be critical of the forms school safety legislation takes.

In response to the Parkland, Fla., shooting last month, President Trump announced the creation of a commission to explore school safety, chaired by education secretary Betsy DeVos. In her confirmation hearing last January, DeVos infamously voiced support for guns in schools to "protect from potential grizzlies."

Placing guns in schools isn't only bad for grizzlies — it's incredibly dangerous for students. And it is often a major part of "school safety" legislation.

School safety in its current form is the militarization of schools. It involves placing armed guards and law enforcement in places of learning. In some schools around the country, it means that faculty members teach English or algebra while wearing a concealed firearm. Right now, H.675 does not include any policing provision, but that could change as it moves through committee. According to VTDigger, an online news outlet covering Vermont politics, legislators have voiced support for increased policing of campus including hiring retired police officers as School Resource Officers.

Policing schools perpetuates discrimination against young people of marginalized identities. The ACLU of Vermont points out that increased law enforcement presence in schools is especially hard on youth of color, youth with disabilities and LGBTQ youth. In their testimony to the Senate Judiciary Committee last week, they provided data that shows black students are more than twice as likely to be arrested at school than their white peers. Additionally, students with disabilities represent a quarter of students arrested and referred to law enforcement, while only comprising 12 percent of the national student population. LGBTQ youth represent 15 percent of youth in the juvenile justice system, while only comprising 7 percent of the nation's population. This is what "school safety" looks like.

There are already comprehensive security measures in Vermont schools. The Agency of Education, the Department of Public Safety and the Vermont School Safety Center offer extensive resources, trainings and practices for schools implementing emergency and crisis response procedures. We don't need security measures in the form of police or armed guards.

What we do need is a more complex and holistic approach to safety, extending beyond crisis management to encompass the emotional, intellectual and physical wellbeing of students in school.

If we truly want to make school safer for our most vulnerable students, we should focus on primary prevention and extending counseling services, not bringing more deadly weapons into schools. School social workers operate from a strength-based perspective — they look for the strengths in troubled students — to bolster community support. They work with families, educators and students to de-escalate situations and mitigate risk. The strength-based approach helps build the kind of support systems that a 2003 study by the Search Institute shows increases pro-social behavior in children.

We should also work to implement restorative justice practices in our schools and support legislation like House Bill 675 in its current form, which seeks to ensure that disciplinary measures are applied fairly to students based on race, ethnicity, gender, class and sexual orientation. We should fight to prevent similar legislation from being co-opted by a misguided gun rights agenda.

We must make school spaces as safe as possible for students to fail, to learn and to grow. We must nurture stronger ties between schools, families and communities and work to deconstruct violent structures, rather than perpetuate them.

That's a version of school safety I think we can all get behind.

SGA WEEKLY

Ways to Get Involved & Voice Your Opinions

By JIN SOHN

Dear MiddKids,

This past Sunday in the Cabinet and Senate we discussed the same topics, so I'll be sharing updates from both meetings together. They were both long meetings, so buckle in!

1. Topic of the Week: SGA has started a Topic of the Week, where SGA Senators work to prioritize student engagement and opinion on one topic each week. This week's topic is on the "Support of Action Against Systematic, Institutional Racism Resulting in Gun Violence" and "Support of Middlebury Students Against Gun Violence" (both bills further explained below). So please reach out to your student representative on this topic and voice your thoughts!

2. SGA Elections are in full swing; be on the lookout for campaigns and be sure to vote April 19–20. Presidential and Community Co-Chair Debates will be the evening of April 18 — more details to come. Be sure to stop by and hear what the candidates have to say!

3. Staff Appreciation Day is April 30! There will be many ways to get involved including thank you video submissions, poster notes and more. Check your emails for more information from SGA and get involved at go/thankyoustaff. And remember to thank staff everyday, not just on Staff Appreciation Day; they do so much for us.

4. "Student–Trustees Representation and Engagement Bill": This bill was passed in the Senate on Sunday. The bill seeks to expand the Student Constituent Overseer position from one student representative to two student representatives with overlapping terms, and from one year terms to two year terms with voting power. Further, the bill asks for a student representative per Trustee Committee, essentially taking the only current SLSEA position for the Resources Committee and replicating it for all the other Trustee Standing Committees including Prudential, Programs, Risk, Strategy, and Trusteeship and Governance. Lastly, the bill calls for a revamping of the Middlebury College Trustees website to better explain the current structure and goals of the Trustees. Next, this bill will be passed to the Trusteeship and Governance Committee for discussion and implementation. We are hoping to engage more students with the Trustees in the month of May with their final meeting for the 2017–2018 academic year. There will be more information to come on this!

5. "Resolution in Support of Action Against Systematic, Institutional Racism Resulting in Gun Violence" and "Resolution in Support of Middlebury Students Against Gun Violence" were discussed in tandem. The SGA is hoping to find ways to provide support beyond statements and toward action. There are many things that both resolutions recommend, but a bulk of the Senate conversation revolved around the first resolution mentioned above. This resolution proposes donating leftover funds from the SGA budget at the end of the 2017–2018 academic year to local and national organizations that are working for this cause. Unfortunately, this goes against college policy; student organizations aren't allowed to use their funds to directly donate to outside organizations. The SGA is looking at other options, such as creating fundraising avenues for individual donations, and would love to hear other ideas from you. An ad-hoc committee was created at the Senate meeting, and the SGA will continue to work on this moving forward. For more information, the main contact for this initiative is SGA Deputy Chief of Staff, Annie Cowan.

6. "Academic Credit for Summer Unpaid Internships": This bill was introduced to the Senate this past Sunday. The bill seeks to address international students' current situation with internship opportunities. Members of the international student community attended the meeting to share their personal stories and support for the bill. The SGA will continue working on this initiative next week. For more information, the main contact for this initiative is SGA junior senator Kailash Pandey.

7. "Terms of Commons Senators":

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IN FAVOR OF ACADEMIC CREDIT FOR INTERNSHIPS

By JOHN GOSSELIN

Junior senator Kailash Pandey is planning to introduce a bill in the SGA Senate this Sunday that would create opportunities to receive academic credit for internships for all students. This step would make internships more accessible, especially to international students (comprising roughly 10 percent of the Middlebury student population) whose practical training time of 12 months per degree level decreases for every non-credit internship they participate in using Optional Practical Training (OPT). Practical training time affects visa eligibility for international students.

This bill comes as the result of multiple conversations senator Pandey has had with administrators concerning this issue. Out of respect for the extraordinary individual effort Kailash has put into drafting this bill, I am not co-sponsoring it, but I want to support it in the strongest possible terms.

This bill would set up a program under which a student could choose a professor to advise them on internships which meet certain requirements so that the internship hews as closely as possible to the academic work the student does on campus. The internships meeting these requirements must relate directly to their declared major or professional interest and they must have three explicit learning outcomes related to the internship experience.

In addition, they must have an on-site internship supervisor, students requesting this opportunity must be in good academic standing, and they would need to receive approval from a faculty advisor. They would also submit a deliverable to said supervisor after the internship, and they may only include two of these internships for credit. These robust conditions would ensure academic engagement with the internship while also creating an opportunity for more Middlebury students to fully and equally participate in these kinds of experiences, the majority of which compliment a student's academic work at a liberal arts institution.

The best parts of this program are the requirements for the faculty supervisor and the requirement for the deliverable. Faculty advisors already form a fundamental part of the educational administrative structure at Middlebury, and having them fill this role for an internship is a natural fit. The academic and personal relationships formed between students and faculty in working on these projects together will become an invaluable learning source if a sufficient number of students participate.

The deliverable is the core of this shared experience between the advisor and the student. In addition to the academically relevant internship, the student will complete a separate project which will solidify the academic parts of the internship experience. This project will prevent the internship from being just work experience or just an internship. It will make it academically relevant.

I want to conclude by speaking briefly on the ramifications of this proposal for international students. Currently, international students face a disadvantage because of our institution's curricular inflexibility — students cannot receive academic credit for summer internships.

In general, international students with an F-1 student visa are only eligible to participate in off-campus practical training experiences that are directly related to their major field of study after they have been enrolled in their program of study for at least one full academic year. Even then, they only have two options for participating in such experiences: Curricular Practical Training (the opportunity must be an integral part of the curriculum: for credit or required by the program) or Optional Practical Training (OPT). This requires an application for employment authorization to U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services and the payment of a $410 filing fee each time they apply. This adjudication process is long (90+ days at present). OPT is limited to 12 months per degree level (pre- and post-completion), although STEM majors may have additional opportunities to extend their OPT should they qualify.

Thus, the vast majority of international students at Middlebury are having to tap into their OPT time during their program of study, leaving many graduating with only a few months to engage in practical training opportunities in the U.S. The way our current institutional policy impacts international students and distances them from some of the same experiences their U.S. peers are already participating in is in distinct contrast with Middlebury's commitment to full and equal participation for all individuals and groups. This proposal represents a step in the right direction by giving more opportunities for internships to international students.

We Need Accountability in Executive Pay

By A MIDDLEBURY STAFF MEMBER

Editor's note: The author is an at-will employee of Middlebury College who requested anonymity for fear of retribution. The request was granted because of the essay's pertinence to the campus debate, and because it otherwise met our editorial standards.

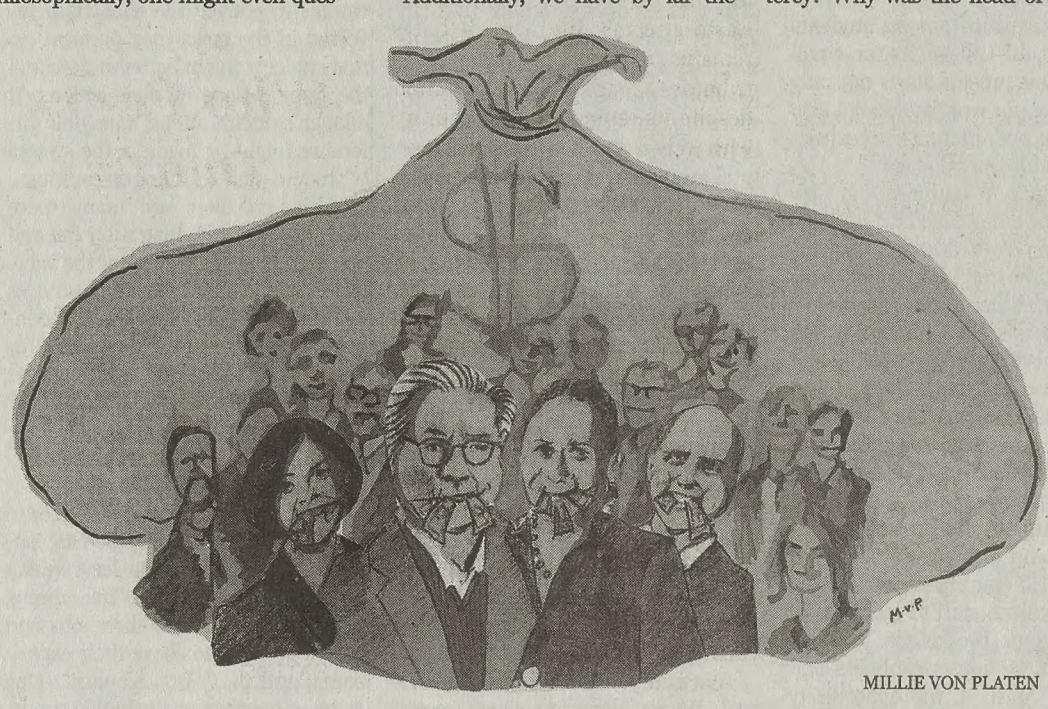
I would first like to address why I asked to keep this opinion anonymous. Executive pay is a sensitive topic where staff and other at-will employees of the college do not have much latitude with which to express their frustration with leadership decisions. We exist in a small enough community where criticism of this nature might come at a cost that many of us are not willing to expend. I wish to express these frustrations because I care about the financial health of the college and want to encourage us toward prudent stewardship.

At three meetings last week, staff and faculty were invited by interim provost Jeff Cason and treasurer David Provost to participate in a conversation about executive pay. Limited information about executive pay is made public every year in the filing of a Form 990. While professor Graham's op-ed highlighted some of these issues and sparked this important conversation, I am writing in order to further elucidate some fiscal practices and pose some yet unanswered questions.

The idea of stay bonuses represent a part of the frustration from faculty, staff and students. While the college does not hand out "bonuses" per se, these payments work fundamentally just like a bonus. They accrue over several years and are paid out to high-level employees who are deemed to be so indispensable, they receive several hundreds of thousand dollars in addition to their base and other pay for simply staying in their jobs. If they were to leave Middlebury before the end of the stay bonus agreement (typically a three or four years period), they would not be paid that amount.

We know the details in only a couple of the cases in which stay bonuses have been utilized, such as one stay bonus put in place when a high-level employee was interviewing for a presidency at another institution. For the majority of these stay bonuses, though, the 2015 Middlebury College presidential transition was used as the justification. These stay bonuses have totalled several million dollars paid to 14 people in the last few years.

I understand the value in retaining high-level employees. Unfortunately, the manner in which stay bonuses have been used has been too many, too excessive, and in the context of the college's other employees, unequitable. Philosophically, one might even question an employee's dedication to the institution and its mission if they have to be enticed to stay here to the tune of hundreds of thousands of dollars.



MILLIE VON PLATEN

In contrast, faculty and staff are often told, even if they have another job offer in hand, that salaries are not negotiable and that they are welcome to leave and take the better offer elsewhere. The merit pay increase structure for staff consists of modest pay increases distributed from a singular pool for all the college staff. The size of the pool and the manner in which it is allocated mean that pay increases between staff who have far exceeded expectations and those who meet expectations can often differ by just a few hundred dollars.

Senior leadership at the college do not seem to fall under the same restraints. Even putting aside the stay bonuses, the base pay for senior leadership seems to have grown each year at a rate outstripping that received by staff or faculty. For example, while already being one of the college's most highly paid employees, in the span of just 2 years, our previous treasurer went from making a base salary of $252,489 to $270,857 (an increase of 7.3 percent). While a staff member has an top end of the pay range for their specific role, senior leadership do not seem to have any such pay ranges, let only top ends.

Additionally, we have by far the largest senior leadership team of our NESCAC peers — 17, followed by Amherst and Tufts at 12. While our NESCAC peers have one or two cabinet-level staff fulfilling these functions, seven members of our senior leadership team have roles that are academically oriented. Granted, three of these individuals run Monterey, our Language Schools, and the international programs respectively — facets to the college which are fairly distinctive to Middlebury. But, it does seems excessive that we have a dean of faculty, interim provost, a provost on leave and a vice president for academic development all currently drawing sizable salaries. Further, we seem to be the only school in the group that has two advancement officers serving in the senior leadership team — a vice president for advancement as well as a chief philanthropic advisor.

David Provost highlighted at the meeting last week that the average pay for our top ten highest paid employees was only fourteen or so percentage points above the mean of a select group of our peer colleges. I am curious about how our total executive pay compares to our peers considering our bench is far deeper.

In terms of other excesses, why is the enrollment dean at Monterey one of our highest paid employees if we haven't met enrollment goals at Monterey? Why was the head of the Hebrew Language School one of top paid employees in 2015? There might be excellent reasons for these decisions, but the lack of transparency around these high costly salaries is alarming.

Further, while the numbers around his departure are still murky, former President Liebowitz seems to have received very sizable additional and deferred pay at the time of his departure. While President Liebowitz was ranked lower in college president pay compared to our peers, I imagine we will be learning within the next 990 that he left Middlebury with an heartily exorbitant goodbye.

I bring all this up with the backdrop of the college facing a painful $20+ million operating deficit. Faculty and staff have been asked to take on the heavy burden of bringing the college's finances back on track. While we have an interim provost and a provost on leave both drawing salaries, we have a 90-day hiring freeze for all other new staff. This is one of my examples where policies and approaches for staff and faculty misalign with those for senior leadership.

It is possible that a certain evaluation of mine is off or a critique is unfounded. I have done my best to study and verify the information here. All this information has been pieced together from the very limited sources that we can access. We need more transparency.

We need to have the same streamlined approach in leadership as has been requested of the rest of the organization. The executive salary structure is set by the board and its compensation committee upon the recommendation of the president. Protecting these pay practices has unfortunately become a coordinated effort. Talking points were distributed to senior leadership in order to talk about the executive pay strategy with one voice. The defensive "us versus them" posture is not going to move us forward.

Commendably, I believe that President Patton has placed a temporary freeze in base pay to staff who make above $200,000 a year. But the stay bonus practices still continue, and we need to go further.

I wish that President Patton would convene a group of staff, faculty, and students to discuss and make recommendations to the compensation committee of the board as well as senior leadership concerning (a) equity in pay and pay practices across the college, (b) transparency around pay practices, (c) policies around salary negotiation, (d) the attitude of indispensability of a select few, (e) budget oversight and sustainability, (f) the alignment in how we treat our staff, faculty and senior staff, and (g) our labor ethics as an institution.

I hope that we learn from the mistakes of the past and pick a direction that places the college on a financially sustainable path. We also have heard a fair amount of deflecting responsibility to the previous treasurer and the previous president (now the chief operating officer at Tulane and the president of Brandeis University, respectively) for our current predicament. But there is much that we can and must do to address our current and inherited practices. At the end of the day, this is not about the individual people. It does not matter who was at fault because now, we all must be accountable.

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This bylaws amendment resolution was also introduced in the Senate this past Sunday and proposed a change to the terms of Commons Senators from a yearly basis to a semesterly basis. The amendment was passed by a majority, but as per the SGA Constitution, bylaws amendments require a two-week process so the vote was void. The SGA is hoping to return to the bylaws amendment next week, but won't be able to put this into effect for the upcoming election. For more information the main contacts for this initiative are SGA Sophomore Senator Varsha Vijayakumar and Wonnacott Senator Anthony Salas.

8. Spring Finals Week Library 24/7 Hours: For this upcoming spring semester finals week, the Davis Family Library is not able to financially fund the library for 24/7 hours. The library collected data that shows only a small percentage of the student body used the 24/7 library hours during late nights and early mornings (1 a.m. – 7 a.m.) of the fall semester finals week. We need your help in providing student sentiments and student-driven data about library 24/7 hours during finals week. So please fill out the survey at go/library24/7 to voice your opinions!

As always, all past and current bills (even the ones mentioned above) can be accessed at go/sga under Weekly Updates and/or Archives. Please continue to reach out to your respective Senators or to SGA with any questions, concerns, or comments. Thanks for staying engaged!

Jin Sohn is SGA President.

SHARP LEFT

The Familiar Sound of Rattling Sabers

By TEVAN GOLDBERG

Here's some unrequested food for thought: How would you feel if the United States and China decided in, say, 2021, to just go at it in a 20th-century style total war over some latter-day Franz Ferdinand incident? Or how about the scenario of joining Saudi Arabia and Israel in blowing Iran to bits? Sound fun? Or perhaps it's soon time to patriotically defend American homeland security by turning Latvia into an open pit while doing battle with Vladimir Putin? This probably sounds ridiculous to you — sheer juvenile alarmism from someone without nearly enough degrees or Oscar nominations to permit such idle geopolitical speculation in public. And while that is an accurate indictment, I think that versions of these hypotheticals are more possible than is generally discussed today in our hyper-distractible, reality TV show of a country.

This is especially relevant now after the recent nominations of avowed warmongers Mike Pompeo as Secretary of State and former UN Ambassador John "There is no UN" Bolton as national security advisor, two men who have dedicated their public careers to wholeheartedly advocating for bloodshed over diplomacy. Undisguised military aggression, almost for its own sake, could soon come back into vogue in a way not seen since the disastrous invasion of Iraq in 2003. What is particularly worrisome is that all this is occurring simultaneously with the outward military expansion of China, and to a lesser extent Russia, raising the possibility of confrontation in one of the many far-flung places that the US has stationed its military.

Thus the quiet yet strategically monumental proclamation from the Pentagon earlier this year that "great power competition — not terrorism — is now the primary focus of U.S. national security," as reported in the New York Times' story "America First Bears a New Threat: Military Force" by David Sanger and Gardiner Harris last month. Why we would ever want to go back to great power competition is truly beyond me, given that it's hardly been a century since the great powers of Europe obliterated each other for the sake of such manly "competition." As security scholar Michael Klare pointed out in his piece "The New Long War" for Tomdispatch last week, if the world is to be split along three spheres of influence, as the Pentagon would now have it, we would be looking at a militarized zone thousands of miles long through some of the world's most volatile regions. Under our new über-aggressive "leadership," the potential for local conflicts to escalate in any of these border zones, like Syria or the South China Sea, could easily drag us into an unnecessary war, much as inter-Balkan squabbling nearly destroyed Europe a century ago. Great power competition is not great; it is what gave us the Cuban missile crisis, the Battle of the Somme, and the countless deadly proxy wars of the 20th century. It is a dangerous, idiotic and unproductive idea totally ill-suited to a world with nuclear weapons, a globalized economy and borderless ecological problems.

It is so ill-suited to our present moment that one cannot but think that its resurgence, with the accompanying jingoism, nostalgia and xenophobia, is somehow a psychological reaction to an increasingly unrecognizable and complicated world. Within the stunted emotional headspace of our president and his similarly minded circle, American exceptionalism cannot be dead when our military is still the exception in size. Without being too reductively Freudian, I might suggest that such a fixation on projecting power and "security" betrays the presence of a certain... insecurity. Pointing missiles at things and blowing up the occasional Syrian town will not solve unemployment, resource scarcity, institutional racism, climate change or any other of our real "wicked problems," but it can give for some the illusion of control over chaos, that our "way of life" can and shall be protected from the enemy. I imagine a similar line of thought occurs among the Russian ruling class.

On another note, I find this strategic realignment pretty incredible given that the U.S. military is still currently engaged in numerous regional conflicts under the now tired pretense of fighting "terrorism," squandering untold billions of resources and further disintegrating the Middle East and Africa. Are they actually saying that after almost 20 years of NSA surveillance, regime changes and drone strikes, shoddily justified as protecting Americans and the world from transparently evil terrorists and rogue states on the brink of success, our "War on Terror" is so easily reclassified as a secondary issue?

This just shows that "national security" is and always has been a thinly veiled euphemism for "excuse to keep a planetary military 70 years after WWII." Mike Pompeo knows this well, having made his fortune selling aerospace parts to defense contractors like Lockheed Martin and Raytheon before a Koch-funded run for Congress in 2010. Far too many people have profited off of this state of affairs for too many years to agree to the proposition that international war should be relegated to the historical trash heap. John Bolton has as few friends and relatives in Damascus as he does in the Army rank and file; Beltway security professionals have as much to gain from this continued belligerence as those actually present for the conflicts have to lose.

Friends, the best time to oppose a war is before it is allowed to start. I have few illusions that people in the Pentagon actually care what you and I think about this stuff, but it is important that we not bury our heads in the sand and pretend that superpowers can't fight wars anymore.

An Introduction and Call to Gather

By TONI CROSS

Last week, The Campus' editorial board wrote in a response to the invitation of a conservative speaker to campus, "...a wide range of conservative issues have assumed the spotlight, including topics like LGBTQ rights, abortion and religion. Why not invite speakers whose specialty lies in these areas?" I'd like to push back on the idea that the three issues they mentioned are "conservative" ones, while simultaneously calling attention to an event organized by my club, Gather: A Community of Progressive Christians and Friends, that will take place next week.

But first, allow me to introduce myself. My name is Toni Cross and I'm a senior from Florida. Before coming to Middlebury, I had no idea what it would be like to live somewhere where being Christian (or even being religious) was not the norm. I also had never been in a space as liberal (in some respects) or as white as Middlebury (I identify as a Black, Afro-Caribbean woman). The summer between my freshman and sophomore year, a friend of mine reached out to me with an interesting idea; he wanted to start a club for Christians that was specifically open and affirming. For those that don't know, an open and affirming Christian believes that homosexuality and different sexual expressions are not sinful, and includes LGBTQ+ individuals in every facet of Church life and ministry. I was intrigued, because such a space did not exist on campus four years ago. I knew individual Christians who were accepting and welcoming of queer people but there was no student group that espoused this. We joined with two other Christian friends of ours and started writing a constitution and brainstorming possible meeting themes over Skype.

Out of these virtual meetings came Gather: A Community of Progressive Christians and Friends. The first part of the name came from Jesus' quote in Matthew 18:20: "For where two or three gather in my name, there I am with them." The word "progressive" in our name is a reference to our commitment to Queer Christians and our values, which are not necessarily the same as those of the many evangelical Christians whose voices dominate political and religious discourse in the U.S. Finally, we call ourselves "Christians and Friends" because we want to create a space in which Christians, "sorta" Christians and non-Christians feel welcome.

Over the course of the past three years, our weekly meetings in the living room of the Scott Center have become a space for debating uncomfortable topics within Christianity such as Biblically-based racism, sex, sexuality and more. The Scott Center has become a place for us to talk about the challenges of practicing our faith on what often feels like a secular campus. We sing hymns, enjoy tea and snacks, and generally pray for and support each other. Our members come from different Christian denominations; we have occasionally been joined by non-Christians (although not as many as we'd like, so please consider this an open invitation!). When we welcome new members at the beginning of each semester, we go over a list of community standards that the founding members developed when we were just starting out, and discuss how we interpret each of them. I'd like to list these standards here because I believe that the Middlebury community (or at the very least, the people who live and work on this campus) could benefit from applying them to our interactions with each other.

1) Remember that every person is a child of God. (If you don't believe in God, you could reword this to say that every person deserves respect.)

2) Keep the personal information of others confidential.

3) Listen before speaking — make and take space in conversation.

4) Strive to see from another's point of view.

5) Strive to reflect accurately the views of others.

6) Disagree without being disagreeable.

7) Speak about issues; do not defame people.

8) Pray, in silence or aloud, before decisions. (This could be interpreted as "don't make decisions in haste.")

9) Let prayer interrupt your busyness and differences. (Reflection and introspection are more important than any perceived busyness and differences.)

10) Be vulnerable to create deeper discussion and understanding, but make self-care a priority.

I think that these are some basic principles and guidelines for civilized behavior that have been missing from interactions at Middlebury for my entire career here, although they may seem more acute in the wake of the events of last March.

I'm not going to comment individually on any of the past speakers that have been invited to and spoken on our campus. I'm actually writing to promote an event that Gather has been planning since January. We (along with MCAB Speakers Committee, Chellis House, the Department of Spanish and Portuguese, the Center for the Comparative Study of Race and Ethnicity, Ross Commons, the Scott Center for Spiritual and Religious Life and the Religious Life Council Flex Fund) are sponsoring a talk by Eliel Cruz, an activist and journalist who identifies as bisexual, Latino and Christian. Mr. Cruz will speak about his identities, life experiences and thoughts around faith organizing, LGBT activism, storytelling as activism, and media representation. Recognizing that one person cannot (and should not be expected to) provide "diversity," it is our belief that Mr. Cruz's presence on this predominantly white and secular campus will be a welcome reminder that there are numerous non-white, non-straight speakers from whom we can all learn and whose expertise can benefit the environment of "diverse thought and dialogue" that we are supposedly striving to cultivate here.

That being said, I invite everyone to come hear Mr. Cruz speak on Tuesday, April 17 at 4:30 p.m. in Axinn 229 and to attend a Gather meeting (Thursdays at 7 p.m. in the Scott Center). Please visit go/gather for more information.

The Problem with Plastics

By ROBERT CASSIDY
Contributing Writer

On Thursday April 5, the Howard E. Woodin Environmental Studies Colloquium Series hosted a lecture by Kara Lavender Law, PhD, titled "Open Plastics Pollution from Sources to Solution." Over the course of the lecture, Law presented findings from her decades-long career as a research professor of oceanography with SEA Semester and her expertise on ocean circulation and marine debris, addressing common misconceptions about ocean plastics pollution and providing her own insights into the causes of marine debris and the steps we can take to reduce it.

Law was quick to acknowledge that marine debris pollution is frequently characterized by the looming presence of The Great Pacific Garbage Patch, an area of intense marine debris concentration that is said to be larger than the state of Texas. While subtropical ocean zones do have higher concentrations of marine debris due to the convergence and stagnation of currents from the equator and poles, Law asserts that the view of garbage patches as the predominant sources of marine pollution is misleading. She instead points out that human-made debris permeates every part of the world's ocean, having been found across every latitude and depth of the ocean.

Unsurprisingly, plastics, and more specifically, microplastics, are the most commonly found form of marine debris. The term "microplastics" is used to denote smaller pieces of plastic that are frequently found to be the remnants of larger plastic debris that has been degraded by sun and weathering. Unlike the floating debris commonly seen in garbage patches, microplastics inhabit practically an unlimited range of marine environments, according to Law, and are not particularly visible or easily spotted from the air. Since 1972, microplastics have been detected in increasing numbers and found even in locations that are incredibly remote from human populations, such as the deepest levels of the ocean and in frozen arctic sea ice. Although microplastics may in some ways seem preferable to larger and more blatantly disruptive debris, recent research has indicated that both types come with their own environmental impacts, despite much still remaining unknown.

According to Law, encounters between marine animals and plastic debris are well documented. At least 50 percent of all seabirds and mammals have been recorded interacting with plastic debris, and there have been documented encounters of every species of sea turtle with marine plastic debris. Law says, however, that the effects of these encounters are myriad. Old fishing gear is a common cause of injury and death among larger sea mammals that get irreversibly trapped in the abandoned equipment.

Floating plastic can also become colonized by fish species and barnacles that will follow or attach to the debris as it drifts long distances, which likely increases the spread of invasive species. Recent research has shown that even microplastics frequently contain a biofilm of microorganisms that are significantly different from the community of microorganisms in the water surrounding the plastic.

Additionally, ingestion has become a common problem among sea birds and large sea mammals, such as whales and sea turtles that ingest plastic resembling prey. This behavior can lead to accumulation within the stomachs of animals, sometimes leading to starvation and malnourishment. Law warns that the ingestion of plastic debris by fish is particularly concerning for humans who eat seafood, because the chemical behavior of plastic additives is poorly understood.

The root of the problem, says Law, is a recent one, as "production of plastics started around the 1950s and 90% of the plastic produced since then is still in existence." The statistics of modern plastic usage are truly staggering in contrast with the relatively short history of the material. Although our grandparents may have known a world completely free of plastic when they were young, a recent study published in Science magazine by Law and her colleagues estimates that eight million tons of it, the weight equivalent of how much tuna is extracted from the oceans each year, annually enters the ocean from land.

This study also showed that China and some other countries in southeast Asia are the largest producers of plastic that enters the ocean from land. Law made sure to stipulate that the position of these countries as leading producers of marine plastic debris is not a result of higher plastic usage, but a result of improper waste management. While many regions of these countries are still in the process of developing suitable infrastructures for their growing economies and waste streams, the United States remains a noticeably large contributor to marine plastic pollution despite its reputation as a country with well-developed infrastructure.

Law points out that most ocean plastic is a direct result of mass consumption of plastic goods that turn to waste almost immediately. While proper waste management is an important step that needs to be taken towards limiting the entry of plastic into the ocean from land, much of the responsibility for reducing plastic pollution must be placed on consumers. Unfortunately, "there is no silver bullet," Law said. Consumers have few options outside of the three R's: reduce, reuse and recycle. She also recommends participating in "The Last Chance Capture," or taking any opportunity possible to properly dispose of waste before it enters the ocean and trying to raise awareness of the issue when possible. Law makes the point that plastic production relies on consumers, and we have the ability to impact behavior just by using responsibly and purchasing from producers that take end-of-life responsibility for their products.

There is still much that remains unknown about the future of the oceans in relation to plastic. Law's research suggests that the amount of plastic debris entering the ocean each year will only increase, but the implications for the future of marine species and the health of coastal communities are extremely uncertain.

"We're just doing a grand, global experiment, and we don't know what is going to happen," Law said.

SCIENCEMAG.ORG
A world map showing the amount of plastic waste that is available to enter the ocean per country.

The Librarian Is In

By AMY FRAZIER
Contributing Columnist

Film and Media Culture Librarian Amy Frazier is liaison to Film and Media Culture, Dance, Theatre and American Studies.

Who Fears Death by Nnedi Okorafor, 2010

DAW

386 pages

RATING

4/5 cardigans

THE WHAT

Sometime between the time I started this novel and now, Afrofuturism went from being an established literary/artistic subculture with a history and a growing canon, to becoming The Hottest New Trend in Everything. I feel an impulse to congratulate Nnedi Okorafor for finding herself well-positioned to be a major beneficiary of the trend, but then, she has been here for quite a while, waiting for the rest of us to catch on.

Nnedi Okorafor is Nigerian-American, and her fiction is very much rooted in African, and particularly Nigerian, culture and mythology. She is one of the emerging cornerstones of new Afrofuturist literature, and as such, is especially relevant to the moment. (And yes, she's the author of a few recent issues of the Black Panther comic book series. You know I couldn't write this review without including a Black Panther connection, right?)

THE WHY

Shocker: this librarian is a huge nerd. I like a lot of nerd stuff. I've read more than my share of science fiction (both hard and soft) and graphic novels, and while I'm not all that into fantasy, the fantasy novels I do like, I really like. After reading enough of this stuff, though, if you have any awareness at all you start to notice that it's all very... Eurocentric. There may be spaceships and unicorns and strange alien species, and maybe even Captain Kirk kissing Lieutenant Uhura, but basically, everyone in the future and/or fantasy realms is white. And speaks English. And apparently comes from Iowa, or the Shire, or some other comfortably-familiar-for-white-people place.

So I made it a project for myself to seek out some nerd-ish lit by people whose experience of the world is different from my own: Chinese fantasy novels, genderqueer science fiction (SF), and "Who Fears Death" by Nnedi Okorafor. Also, full disclosure: the reason I chose this Okorafor novel over her many others, is because I read that it got optioned for development into a TV series for HBO, and I wanted to read the book before I watched the show. I'm not necessarily proud of that as my selection criteria, but there it is.

The world of "Who Fears Death" exists an undetermined number of decades/centuries in the future, and the story takes place in an nonspecific part of Africa. That world is connected to ours through history (our present is their distant past) and something, we don't know what, happened to utterly change our world into theirs. Our technology still exists as semi-functional, repurposed scrap material, but the world is not technologically-advanced in the usual SF mode. Magic is very much a living force, but the human condition seems relatively unchanged. Our protagonist is an adolescent girl named Onyesonwu, translated, meaning "Who Fears Death," who is living with her mother and adoptive father in a reasonably peaceful small town.

Also, she can bring the recently-deceased back to life, among other things.

Note: this is not a gentle book. There is harrowing brutality and suffering visited upon female characters from very early on. It has narrative and thematic purpose, but it's there, and Okorafor does not smooth over the rough parts. There is also real friendship and righteous vengeance and a long arc about love and sexuality as conduit for magic and power.

As a middle-aged white woman, I have to recognize that in reading a novel rooted in African culture, by an African-rooted author, I'll inevitably miss some of book's nuance and depth. Nnedi Okorafor and I come from very different figurative places, so I don't always feel confident that my understanding of her story aligns with her own. But I wanted to open up my ideas about well-worn, familiar genres to genuinely different perspectives, while honoring the fact that my "genuinely different" might be someone else's "finally, something I can relate to." And all to the good, because if faraway worlds and fantastical settings can't make room for perspectives outside the white, heteronormative, European norm, then what is even the point?

Pulitzer Prize-Winning Composer Visits Campus

By QIAN LI
Contributing Writer

Classical musician Caroline Shaw visited Middlebury College on April 10 and 11, offering engaging discussions as well as innovative performance. At age 30, she became the youngest recipient of the Pulitzer Prize for Music in 2013. Thanks to the Rothrock Family Fund for Experiential Learning in the Performing Arts, Annie Beliveau '18 and Tevan Goldberg '18 developed a thoughtful and detailed proposal, which was selected by a group of students listed as Performing Arts Series Society (PASS) Scholars and won the opportunity to bring Caroline Shaw to Middlebury.

Ever since the program was launched in 2011, the Rothrock Family Fund has stimulated a greater interest and engagement among students over the years in contributing to the artistic life on campus. Students have not only proposed thoroughly-planned residencies for artists of interest, they have also voted during the selection part of the process.

"It is a good system because the PASS scholars vote on who will come, so it is really meant to be student chosen, student organized," Beliveau said.

According to Allison Coyne Carroll, director for the Performing Arts Series, the annual proposal process is open to any Middlebury student each fall and offers an opportunity for students to learn more about arts administration, especially the work behind the scenes in presenting performances and residencies.

Beliveau, a Music major with a French minor, first saw a poster about this opportunity and then came up with the idea of the residency of Caroline Shaw. Beliveau first learned about Caroline Shaw as the winner of Pulitzer Prize from a magazine cover at her doctor's office and Goldberg recalled his excitement the first time listening to Caroline Shaw's music when he was studying composition at an arts boarding school.

"My friends sat me down in a chair and made me listen to it, I was like, this is the craziest thing I ever heard," Goldberg said. "She was the the youngest winner of the Pulitzer Prize and her piece also reflected how innovative she was."

While Carroll, along with Arts Events Manager Shannon Bohler and Series Intern Nadani Dixon '20 played an advisory role to ensure the success in planning the residency, Carroll was especially impressed by the enthusiasm and passion in Beliveau and Goldberg's proposal.

"As most winning proposals have in common, Annie and Tevan clearly articulated their enthusiasm for Ms. Shaw's work and the unique value of bringing her to campus," Carroll said. "They planned well in advance, understood the proposal process and asked me and my experienced colleagues at the MCA lots of questions."

As students who are passionate for the classical vocal genre, both Beliveau and Goldberg wanted to get an insider take from Caroline Shaw about her personal career path in music.

"If I was going to continue singing in this specific genre, Caroline Shaw would be the person that I would want to emulate the most," Goldberg said. "As a 21st century classical musician, she is very forward-looking, very actively playing and composing and works in different genres."

In addition to planning Caroline Shaw's visit to different classes, public concert and consulting with student composers on their works in progress, Beliveau and Goldberg also chose relevant topics for Caroline Shaw's two discussions to engage more students: "blurring genre boundaries in music-making" and "the role of women in music."

"For the main discussion "From Pulitzer to Kanye," we chose the Kanye label because that is going to be the one that perks people's ears, especially for those who are not familiar with contemporary classical music," Goldberg said. "It will show people that this is still a genre with lots of vitality and contemporary relevance and interest them in more of Shaw's real concert works besides her collaboration with Kanye West."

Besides this public discussion on Tuesday, Caroline Shaw also offered an informal lunch discussion with Middlebury students about the historical role of women in classical music and their efforts in breaking through the musical glass ceiling in their contemporary work.

Not only did Caroline Shaw's two-day residency at Middlebury benefit the lives of many student artists, it also enriched the value of artistic engagement and enhanced the artistic life on campus.

DON'T MISS THIS

Josh Pinkham Trio

Mandolinist Josh Pinkham is known for pushing the mandolin into new and old territory and excelling in Bluegrass, Newgrass, Jazz, and Classical music. Pinkham's trio will be rounded out by acclaimed, in-demand, ensemble players bassist Ethan Jodziewicz and guitarist Jason Borisoff.
4/12 Friday, 8-10 p.m., Robison Concert Hall. $22/16/6.

Agency and Opportunity in the Golden Age of American Television

Join in for a public conversation with actor/producer Piper Perabo (Coyote Ugly, Notorious, Covert Affairs, Cheaper by the Dozen), and writer/director Stephen Kay (Friday Night Lights, Taken, Get Carter, Sons of Anarchy) as they discuss the opportunities and challenges of navigating careers in the golden age of American television.
4/14 Saturday, 4:30-6:30 p.m., Axinn Center 232. Free.

MCAB Large Spring Concert: Joey Bada$$

Doors open at 8pm, with performances by Dessy Hinds at 8:30pm, followed by BUDDY at 9pm, BOOGIe at 9:45pm, and the headliner Joey Bada$$ taking the stage at 10:30pm.
4/14 Saturday, 8:30-11:30 p.m., Chip Kenyon Arena. $15/20.

Meeting Midd: John Schurer Builds Community Through Photo Storytelling

John Schurer's MeetMidd project has featured stories and photos from over 200 members of the Class of 2021 and 2021.5. To keep up with the project, follow the Instagram account @meetmidd.

By BENJY RENTON
Arts & Sciences Editor

Transitioning to college is not easy for anyone, and so one first-year has made it his mission to foster a strong community among the first-year class through sharing stories and photography. On any given day, John Schurer '21 will attend classes, participate in various student organization meetings and collect the stories of his classmates for posting on his new initiative, MeetMidd. Taking the form of a website, Facebook and Instagram accounts, MeetMidd is a space for members of the Class of 2021 and 2021.5 to share anecdotes about themselves to a wider audience. Over the past few months, it has turned into an entity uniting the community and building relationships among others in the first-year class.

Schurer's interest in photography started in middle school.

"For the longest time I've loved photography and I used to take photos of very typical subjects — things like sunsets, my friends, dogs," he said. "It wasn't until I started MeetMidd that I did profile photography, but once I started I almost couldn't stop."

He believes that profile photography enables him to combine his interests in photography and getting to know people.

"A photographer doesn't take a photograph, a photographer makes a photograph," Schurer said, saying that he aims to capture feelings through composing his subjects.

While he is new to profile photography, Schurer is no stranger to the world of communications, social media and publicity. He currently serves on a host of committees and participates in various extracurricular activities, including MCAB's Traditions Committee, Wonnacott Commons Council and the SGA's Publicity Committee, to name a few. Schurer is also one of two First-Year Senators for the Class of 2021, a producer for the Middlebury Moth-Up and the publicity coordinator for the Center for Community Engagement's Page One Literacy Project.

"The more things I have going on, the more I feel grounded in a place," he said.

Schurer started MeetMidd with the goal of giving students a chance to share their stories.

"I was inspired by a quote by Maya Angelou, and she once said that 'there is no greater agony than bearing an untold story inside you,'" he said.

He believes storytelling can be used as empowerment for ourselves and compassion for others. In addition, Schurer aims to capitalize on the intimacy of a small college campus where compassion for others is present.

"When you have a mutual foundation of compassion, respect and understanding, you're more likely to create a natural dialogue about the issues that are facing the campus," he said.

The MeetMidd process involves soliciting stories and photos from members of the first-year class. Schurer reaches out to his classmates with an online document asking them to share any anecdote about themselves, in addition to their hometown, commons, academic interests and other personal interests.

On the surface, it seems that MeetMidd has similarities to photographer Brandon Stanton's "Humans of New York" project, which he started in 2010. However, Schurer clarifies some of the differences. New York City is a large city, and Middlebury's small community enables its constituents to read a story on MeetMidd and potentially see the subject the next day.

"People are not only reading the posts, but they're internalizing what they read and doing something about it," Schurer said. In addition, Humans of New York is often comprised of extemporaneous stories, whereas MeetMidd features stories where the subjects have time to prepare.

Schurer believes that so far, his project has made first-years' transition to college easier by making it easier to reach out to others and relate to them.

"I think it's helped people realize that we're not so different from one another, and it has led to new friendships," he said. "When you read something about someone on MeetMidd, it undermines some of the preconceived notions that you've developed about a person. It helps you learn about them from their own voice."

In the future, Schurer hopes to represent the entire Class of 2021 and 2021.5 by featuring all of its around 750 members on MeetMidd. He also hopes to expand a similar storytelling model to other aspects of the Middlebury campus, including the administration, faculty and staff.

COURTESY OF JOHN SCHURER
Schurer is the creator of MeetMidd, an initiative designed to build a community full of compassion, respect, understanding and kindness.

"In that sense, I'm very excited for the future," Schurer said, as he hopes to make it more than a first-year project. He also envisions working with different student groups to use similar methods to showcase various people in the community.

With many responsibilities on campus, one may wonder how Schurer balances his commitments.

"I only participate in what I love" he said. "I would never do something if it felt like a tremendous burden to me. If you love what you're doing you always find a way to make it possible."

Those wishing to keep up with the project can find @meetmidd on Facebook on Instagram and visit the website at meetmidd.weebly.com. Schurer would like to thank all the students who have participated so far and would also like to express gratitude to his supporters.

"It goes a long way," he said.

Schurer believes that MeetMidd helps build a strong community at Middlebury through compassion, respect, understanding and kindness. He also thinks that his community building movement will help people realize that they are all imperfect and that is absolutely acceptable. Justifying that what Middlebury needs more than anything is a strong community, Schurer said "[his] intention is to begin with MeetMidd and show everyone why our community is worth fighting for."

STAN BAROUH
"The Wolves" explored themes of adolescence, friendship, death and womanhood.

"The Wolves" Focuses on Sisterhood

By SARAH BOYLE
Arts & Sciences Editor

From Thursday April 5 through Saturday April 7, the Department of Theatre and Dance presented "The Wolves," a play written by Sarah DeLappe and directed at the college by Michole Biancosino.

The piece centers on the lives of teenage soccer players as they struggle through their indoor season and their tumultuous personal lives. The play only features female characters on the simple stage of the soccer field, but speaks to so much more than just the game.

"The Wolves" premiered in 2016 in New York City, where it was met with rave reviews and was a 2017 finalist for the Pulitzer Prize for Drama.

DeLappe wrote the piece in order to tell the story of girls as "human beings -- as complicated, nuanced, very idiosyncratic people who weren't just girlfriends."

In the work, she displays girls who are "athletes and daughters and students and scholars and people who [are] trying actively to figure out who they [are]."

The play is strongest in its honesty about what it is like to be a young woman surrounded by peers during a period of time where social interactions are so important.

The juxtaposition of the light-hearted chats and deep conversations that these girls have underscores relatability of the play and its characters.

Listening in on their discussions that range from atrocious genocides to their opinions about the timeless pads-versus-tampons debate are so familiar to many women that the work does not even seem like a play but more like watching real life unfold on stage.

DeLappe includes many aspects of teenage girls' experiences in this play that are often ignored. These girls grapple with eating disorders, sexual harassment, social anxiety, the looming pressure of college, problems with parents and tensions amongst friends during times when their lives are constantly changing.

These narratives hit close to home for many women, so it is shocking to realize how revolutionary it is to see them highlighted as the main plot for a play.

At the heart of this piece are the relationships that these girls have with each other in various contexts. On one hand, they are teammates that work together in order to achieve their goal of doing well in their indoor season as well as their individual goals of playing college soccer.

The conflict between team mentality and personal ambition strikes hard at the dynamics amongst these girls and demonstrates their competitiveness and determination.

Additionally, these girls are not only teammates, but friends that have been together for many years. They clearly have a strong bond and know intimate details about each other that they take advantage of for laughs or, during conflict, for injury. These girls are at times immature and cruel to each other, whether unknowingly or on purpose. One of the characters, identified by her number 46 and played by Ursula Alwang '20, is new to the team and is ostracized for her uniqueness and the fact that they think she lives in a yogurt (in reality she lives in a yurt). Seeing these challenging moments of bullying on stage reminds the audience of the pain that comes when girls do not support each other.

One of the most harrowing scenes of the play is when number 00, played by Hannah Mohamed Abdelaal '21, has an anxiety attack. She comes onto the stage in tears and begins hitting soccer balls against the wall in frustration and panic. Unable to contain her emotions, she has to scream into her shirt in order to release all of the feelings she has been repressing.

This scene forces the audience to witness what many girls lock away and do not share with the world, that the struggles in their lives are sometimes too much to handle and everything comes to a breaking point.

At the height of their most divisive moments, the girls are forced to overcome tragedy. While they despair, they also find the opportunity to unite in ways that before the tension between them would not permit. They are able to recognize their shared strength once they relate to each other and see that they are all wrestling with the same pain.

The play ends with them chanting their cheer "We are the Wolves! We are the Wolves!" multiple times with increasing bravado. This unifying cheer signifies their growth as individuals that have the ability to come together and support one another, as the cheer is strongest when all of their voices form into one forceful sound. At the end of the cheer they break apart and look to the audience with faces of determination and confidence, demonstrating how their bond has allowed them to grow into strong women.

"The Wolves" shows what greatness can happen when women support each other. This play demonstrates the challenging issues that girls are forced to face in our society and the ways in which girls can relate to and help each other through dark times. The value of this work is that it exhibits the problems in our society that are so deeply ingrained but rarely talked about.

The play also inspires women to look at the power of the wolf packs that they take part in, whatever form they may be.

STAN BAROUH
"Ursula Alwang '20 and Emma Zetterberg '19.5 perform in "The Wolves."

SPORTS & FUNNIES

WOMEN'S TENNIS

MICHAEL BORENSTEIN

Women's tennis went 5–4 last Saturday in Williamstown in a top-notch contest against the Ephs. The Panthers will likely get another shot at the Ephs before the season is over.

B6

BASEBALL

MIDDLEBURY ATHLETICS

The baseball team will look to bounce back from being swept last weekend by Wesleyan. Big series against Amherst set to begin tomorrow afternoon at Forbes Field at 5 p.m.

B7

MEN'S LACROSSE

MIDDLEBURY ATHLETIC COMMS

Men's lacrosse strings together back-to-back victories and two key Nescac road wins as they jockey for postseason position.

B3

PLAYER AND TEAM OF THE WEEK

B6

GREAT EIGHT

Case's Court

1. WILL CASE (181–116, .609)

B2

SCOREBOARD

B2

Down, but Not Out

MICHAEL BORENSTEIN

Colby scored two late goals to sneak passed the Panthers 14–12 at Kohn Field. This marked Middlebury's first loss of the season.

Women's Lacrosse Upset by Colby

FACE TRINITY IN CONFERENCE HEAVYWEIGHT SHOWDOWN ON SATURDAY

By HEATHER BOEHM

The women's lacrosse team squared off with Nescac rival Colby on Saturday, April 7, on its home turf at Kohn Field. In a hard-fought battle, No. 15 Colby thwarted two Middlebury comeback attempts to defeat the No. 9 Panthers 14–12, handing them their first conference loss and knocking them out of first place in the standings.

Going into the contest on Saturday, the Panthers knew they were in for a battle, even though the Mules entered with a 1–4 Nescac mark. All four of Colby's losses came by two goals or fewer.

The Panthers also knew Colby like the back of their hands after playing them three times last season. In 2017, they fell to the Mules in the regular season 9–6. Then, during the Nescac semifinals, they got another opportunity to topple the Mules. But they were unable to finish off any of their fast breaks past the Colby defense in a 10–9 loss.

These hard losses taught the Panthers some valuable lessons, and in the second round of the NCAA tournament, they sought revenge and ended the Mules' season when Jenna McNicholas '19 knocked in the game-winning goal in the final seconds to seal a 10–9 victory for the Panthers.

With these fresh memories in their minds, the Panthers and the Mules took the field on Saturday. And in the first 15 minutes of action, Colby proved they were much better than their record indicated, jumping out to a 4–0 lead before Middlebury even had a chance to blink.

Erin Nicholas '21 got Middlebury on the scoreboard by hammering in a pass from MG Gately '20. Her goal marked a momentum shift for the Panthers, as teammates Henley Hall '19 and Kate Zecca '20 followed her lead, slapping two more shots home.

With Middlebury inching its way back to a tie score, Colby increased its advantage to two when Kendall Smith scored on a free-position shot. Emily Barnard '20 took the two-goal lead away when she found an opening and narrowed the score to 5–4. Both teams added an additional goal to their totals in the last two minutes of the first half, and Colby led 6–5 at the halfway point.

The hosts started the second period of play in a promising way. Barnard recorded her second goal of the day within seconds of the first whistle to knot the score. Despite mounting pressure in a tied conference game, the Mules passed through the usually impermeable Middlebury defense and knocked a shot past the Panther goalie a few minutes later. They continued to score four more unanswered goals to build the largest lead of Saturday's game. Behind by five, Middlebury took a timeout.

"We knew that we were much better than the way that we were playing so we took a few timeouts to collect ourselves," said Erin Nicholas '21 afterwards. "We knew the deficit should not have been what it was.

The Panthers put their heads down and got to work, scoring six of the next seven goals. Kirsten Murphy '21's goal with 3:44 remaining tied the game at 12.

"We picked up our energy and our level of play, and built off each other's momentum," added Nicholas. "Once we got one goal, the others came a lot easier. It got more and more exciting with each goal. The home field advantage helped a lot with fans and family and playing on our home turf was definitely more comfortable."

The crowd at Kohn Field came alive as the Panthers fought back into the game. Both teams had multiple opportunities, but it was Colby who capitalized on two of their quick breaks and found the back of the Middlebury net twice to earn a 14–12 victory.

The loss dropped Middlebury to 5–1 in the Nescac and 9–2 overall. Barring results from last night's late games, the Panthers are in fourth place in the conference standings, behind No. 6 Tufts and No. 4 Amherst with Tufts standing alone at the top. Colby moved into a tie with Hamilton for seventh place in the standings, as both teams sit at 2–4.

Saturday's game demonstrated just how much parity and competition there is in the Nescac this season.

"The conference is so competitive in the way that any team could win on any given day," said Zecca. "Unfortunately, Saturday was not our day."

Saturday's game is just that, though — one game — and the Panthers know there is still a lot of season left.

"We know that we are the better team," added Zecca. "It just comes down to putting our beliefs into action. We hope to see Colby again in the postseason so that we get another chance to prove our talent, drive, and desire to win. We don't need to change our play to beat Colby. We just need to come out strong and play our game."

One positive from Saturday's game was the return of goalie Kate Furber '19 from an injury that sidelined her for the first 10 games of the season. Furber started 24 games in her first two seasons in the blue-and-white and returned on Saturday to relieve Julia Keith '20. Keith has started all 11 games this season and played admirably in Furber's absence, with 65 saves for the Nescac's top defense.

Middlebury's situation at goalie is not unlike anywhere else on the field — full of depth and ready to withstand any injury that may occur.

"Losing any member of our team, whether they start or not, is always going to have a large impact on our team," said Zecca. "Furber has worked tirelessly to recover as quickly as possible, but her support and encouragement this past season [have] impacted our game just as much as if she were healthy and playing. One of the most powerful things about our team this year is our depth. Any member of the team can step up and perform when needed, just as Keith, and many other players, have demonstrated so far."

Despite the hard loss, the team hold their heads up high as they remember what happened the previous year after a harsh reminder of their vulnerability. The team is excited to hopefully face the Mules again in the Nescac tournament. Next up, the Panthers take on No. 8 Trinity on Kohn Field this Saturday, April 14, at 2 p.m., in another important conference matchup against head coach Kate Livesay '03's former team with the opportunity to leapfrog the Bantams in the standings.

More importantly, the game will provide another tough test for Middlebury, who needs to continue to improve after having some vulnerabilities exposed last Saturday.

MICHAEL BORENSTEIN

SCOREBOARD

Schedule

MEN'S LACROSSE

Standings

School	Conf.	Overall
Tufts	6-0	9-0
Amherst	5-1	9-2
Wesleyan	5-1	8-2
Bowdoin	4-2	8-2
Conn. College	4-3	8-3
Williams	3-3	4-6
Bates	3-4	7-5
Middlebury	3-4	5-5
Colby	1-5	3-5
Trinity	1-5	4-6
Hamilton	0-7	1-10

Schedule

SATURDAY, APRIL 14
Middlebury at Springfield, 4:30 p.m.

TUESDAY, APRIL 14
Middlebury at Trinity, 2:00 p.m.

WOMEN'S LACROSSE

Standings

School	Conf.	Overall
Tufts	6-0	10-1
Amherst	5-1	9-1
Middlebury	5-1	9-1
Trinity	5-1	9-2
Bowdoin	3-3	9-2
Wesleyan	3-3	8-3
Colby	2-4	6-4
Hamilton	2-4	4-6
Bates	2-5	7-5
Williams	1-5	4-6
Conn College	0-7	3-8

Schedule

SATURDAY, APRIL 14
Trinity at Middlebury, 2 p.m.

BASEBALL

Standings

School	Conf.	Overall
Wesleyan	3-0	13-6
Amherst	4-1	11-6
Middlebury	2-4	6-12
Williams	2-4	3-12
Hamilton	0-2	10-9

Schedule

FRIDAY, APRIL 13
Amherst at Middlebury, 4 p.m.

SATURDAY, APRIL 14
Amherst at Middlebury, 12 p.m.
Amherst at Middlebury, 2 p.m.

SOFTBALL

Standings

WEST

School	Conf.	Overall
Amherst	5-0	17-2
Williams	5-1	18--4
Hamilton	1-2	8-12
Middlebury	0-3	7-7

WOMEN'S TENNIS

Schedule

SATURDAY, APRIL 14
Bowdoin at Middlebury, 10:00 a.m.

MEN'S TENNIS

Schedule

SATURDAY, APRIL 14
Middlebury at Bowdoin, 2:00 p.m

GREAT EIGHT

TEAM
Case's Court

1. WILL CASE (181–116, .609)

1 Men's and Women's Golf

They get the spring season started this weekend. The women's team will have to make the tough choice between heading down the faster I-87 toll road or the more scenic Taconic State Parkway toward Poughkeepsie for the Vassar Spring Invite, while the men's side is likely to take I-89 over to I-93S to Allendale Country Club in Dartmouth, Massachusetts, for the Westport Hampton Inn Invitational.

Neither team has a conference tournament to play this spring, although some members of the men's squad will likely opt to aim for the individual crown at the conference tournament later this month. In all, both teams will look to use the short three-week spring tournament schedule to end the 2017-18 campaign on a high note.

2 Women's Tennis

They have lost only two matches this year, one on the road against No. 6 Claremont-Mudd-Scripps, and one this past Saturday in nail-biting 5–4 fashion to No. 3 Williams in Williamstown, Massachusetts. Last week's Panther Player of the Week Heather Boehm '20 continues to contribute to the Panthers' success. With her win in the third slot on the Middlebury ladder against Williams, and her and doubles partner Christina Puccinelli '19's win in No. 3 doubles, Boehm improved to 17–2 in singles and 11–4 in doubles this year.

3 Men's Tennis

Injuries have held them back quite a bit this spring, but the team is beginning to round themselves back into shape. Like the women's squad, the men's squad lost to the Ephs last Saturday, April 7, 5–4. However, the men's squad got swept in doubles play. Will de Quant '18 and Noah Farrell '19 have returned to the lineup and split their singles matches. Both beat their Williams opponent and lost to their Tufts opponent.

4 Women's Lacrosse

Unfortunately, their upset loss to Colby at Kohn Field last Saturday came at a bad time. With four games remaining in the season, all in conference play, the Panthers still have to play Tufts and Trinity. Colby was 1–4 in conference play entering last Saturday's action but scored two goals in the final three minutes of the game to beat the Panthers 14–12. Although Middlebury dug themselves into a five-goal hole and managed to come back to tie things up late, the Colby loss stings.

Then again, every championship team has a moment like this. Here in the back of the newspaper office in Hepburn basement, pushed in the corner where the sports section is relegated, we're bullish on this squad.

5 Men's Lacrosse

Both teams started off the spring strong last weekend at the Amherst Spring Fling meet. Other than Lucy Lang '19 and Ellie Greenberg '20 (see Panther Players of the week on B2), Nathan Hill '20 won the 1500m, Theodore Henderson '20 (for the men's side) and Abigail Nadler '19 (for the women's) won the 5000m events, Minhaj Rahman '20 won the hammer throw, Helene Rowland '20 won the shot put, and Devon Player '18 who won the javelin event.

6 Track and Field

See Panther Team of the Week. But it is also worth noting that they have received votes in the USILA Coaches Poll for the past few weeks. Keep an eye on that poll, as the Panthers are looking to boost their resume for when the committee selects at-large teams for the postseason next month.

7 Softball

They had a tough task facing No. 17 Amherst on the road. With three home games against West Division foe Hamilton set to begin tomorrow night at 5 p.m., the Panthers will have a great chance to distance themselves from last-place Wesleyan to get in position for some conference-tournament action.

8 Phoenix Suns

Congrats to the Suns for winning the tankathon. They've got a 25-percent shot at a top pick in June's NBA draft. With the final games of the season in the books last night, you can see how your team did in the tankathon and where they might pick in the draft here: http://www.tankathon.com.

WOMEN'S LACROSSE IWLCA COACHES POLL

Rank	School	Record	Previous Rank
1	Salisbury	12-0	2
2	Gettysburg	9-1	1
3	TCNJ	8-2	3
4	Amherst	9-1	6
5	Franklin & Marshall	9-3	10
6	Tufts	9-1	7
7	York (PA)	7-3	9
8	Trinity (CT)	9-2	8
9	Middlebury	9-2	4
10	Mary Washington	11-2	5
11	Washington & Lee	8-4	11
12	SUNY Geneseo	10-0	12
13	Messiah	8-3	13
14	Ithaca	8-3	16
15	Colby	6-4	21
16	Wesleyan (CT)	7-4	14
17	Catholic	7-4	17
18	Bowdoin	8-3	18
19	Stevens	8-2	20
20	William Smith	8-4	15
21	SUNY Cortland	7-4	19
22	Claremont-Mudd-Scripps	12-1	22
23	Rowan	7-1	23
24	St. John Fisher	7-2	24
25	Haverford	9-2	NR

ITA MEN'S TENNIS RANKINGS

Rank	Team
1	Bowdoin
2	Middlebury
3	Williams
4	Amherst
5	Wesleyan
6	Tufts
7	Brandeis
8	Bates
9	MIT
10	Skidmore
11	RPI
12	NYU
13	Colby
14	TCNJ
15	Hobart
16	Stevens
17	Trinity CT
18	Coast Guard
19	Vassar
20	Babson

ITA WOMEN'S TENNIS RANKINGS

Rank	Team
1	Williams
2	Wesleyan
3	Middlebury
4	Tufts
5	Amherst
6	MIT
7	Bowdoin
8	Skidmore
9	Brandeis
10	NYU
11	Bates
12	Trinity
13	Vassar
14	Wellesley
15	Colby
16	TCNJ
17	Babson
18	Rochester
19	Wheaton
20	Colby-Sawyer

YOU WANT TO START YOUR WEEK OFF LAUGHING?

TAKE THE DIVE AND TUNE IN TO 3 GUYS AND THEIR SHOW, 9–10 A.M. ON WRMC.

Some have called it the best Sunday mid-morning show on the radio*

Start your Sunday morning right as two men and a guy with a beard banter, play a few tunes, share some laughs, and get you on your way into a new week on a good note. Final season!

Sunday morning radio critics across the nation are raving:

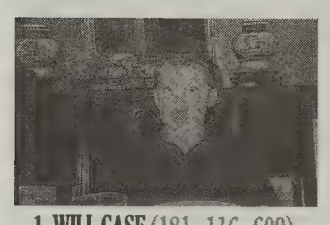
"They're very entertaining." – anonymous souce

"I've listened to them since they were on in the 4–6 a.m. slot. They've improved a litte." – Mr. Buttons

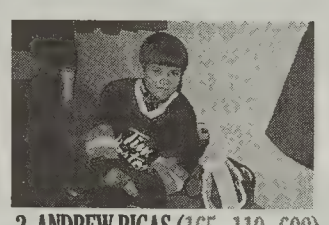
"The show is almost as good as this gag add!" – all the loyal listeners

*that happens to take place between 9 and 10 a.m., is broadcasted on 91.1FM Middlebury College Radio waves, and is called 3 Guys and Their Show

EDITORS' PICKS



1. WILL CASE (181–116, .609)



2. ANDREW RIGAS (165–110, .600)

3. ETHAN BRADY (67–48, .583)

4. MIGUEL ESPINOSA (18–19, .486)

Baseball vs. Amherst

MIDD
They need this to keep their hopes alive for the Nescac. The chance to play at home gives them a leg up.

MIDD
I'm going to make my move in the pro sports picks this week.

AMHERST
As much as I want them to win, the Green Mountain Boys probably won't.

AMHERST
Unfortunately, the Mammoths are led by strong batting.

Softball vs. Hamilton

MIDD
They need to win this series, or else they're going to be in some trouble.

MIDD
We took two out of three against Ham last year, and we'll do it again this year.

MIDD
I'm playing it safe in this round.

MIDD
It's going to be a close series, but Midd will come out on top.

Women's Tennis vs. Bowdoin

MIDD
But don't sleep on a Polar Bears team that boasts top-10 talent.

MIDD
They won't lose twice in a row.

MIDD
The Bears are out of it.

MIDD
They'll bounce back from their loss against Williams.

Maple Leafs vs. Bruins

LEAFS
They won the season series 3–1.

BRUINS
Will, you're a fool.

TORONTO
Turn the 6 upside down it's a 9 now.

BRUINS
I'm expecting Marchand to go off.

Penguins vs. Flyers, Best-of-Seven

PENGUINS
This looks to be one of the more intriguing first round series. Pittsburgh won the season series 4–0, so there's no reason to think they will fail to keep up their high flying success against Philly.

PENGUINS
Aren't they going for a 3-peat?

PENGUINS
They're the better bird.

PENGUINS
Crosby, Malkin, and Kessel is as deadly as a combination as possible.

Red Sox vs. Yankees, Tonight at 9:10 on MLB Network

RED SOX
Got to go with the hot bats and the hot hand, as Rick Porcello has looked great so far for the Red Sox.

YANKEES
Why the heck not, I'll take the Yanks.

YANKEES
Get your New York sports here.

RED SOX
Despite Bogaerts' injury, the Sox are extremely hot right now and will continue.

Six Top Finishes Pace Track and Field at Amherst Spring Fling Meet

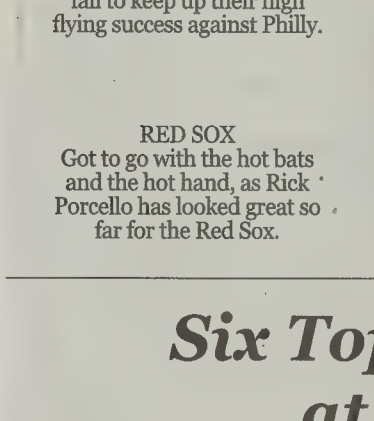
By JORDAN HOWELL

As the season is still in its early stages for the men's and women's outdoor track team, the runners are trying their best to build up momentum. Their early successes will be crucial for confidence building.

"We definitely exceeded our expectations," Nick Hendrix '20 said in reference to some of the Panthers' previous meets. "To get off a flight on Friday and then win the PLNU Invitational the next day was a fantastic way to start the season. We had some excellent individual performances from some of our more experienced athletes, and the freshmen had some really encouraging performances."

The spring trip, while challenging, has the track and field teams feeling prepared for the meets ahead.

"I think everyone was a bit tired going into the second meet after a week of hard training in the sun," said Hendrix in reference to the California Collegiate Open, in which the Panthers partook over the spring trip. "We held our own against some high-caliber competition, including some DI schools, so I think this bodes very well for us going into the rest of the season."



MIDDLEBURY ATHLETIC COMMS

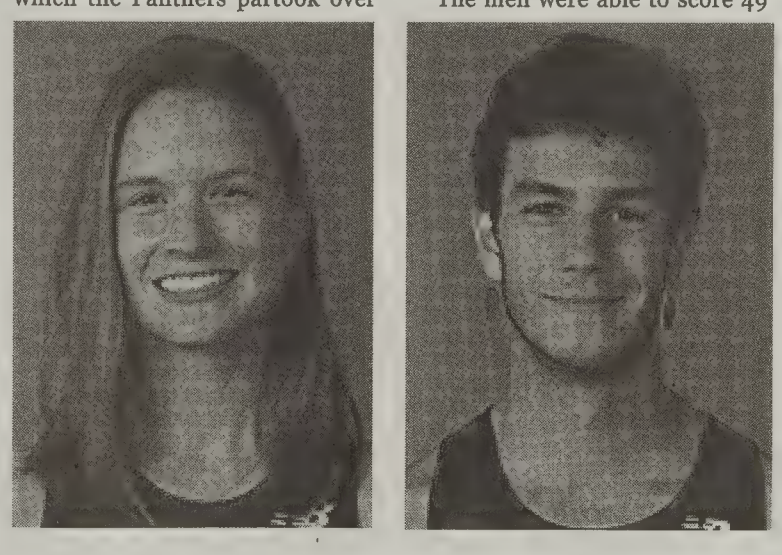
Katie Glew '21.

"People came in with a positive attitude, which helped us perform well," added Katie Glew '21.

All of this is good news for the Panthers, as the conference meet and DIII New Englands are only a few short weeks away. Due to the pace of the schedule, there is no time to waste. Improvements and getting the team to bond together will have to occur quickly.

On Saturday, April 7, the Panthers continued their success as they participated in the Amherst Spring Fling. Both the men and women came in fourth in total fields of seven teams.

The men were able to score 49 points at the meet, which WPI won.



MIDDLEBURY ATHLETIC COMMUNICATIONS

Abigail Nadler '19 (left) won the 5,000 meter race at last week's Amherst Spring Fling meet with a time of 17:47.34. Theo Henderson '20 (right) won the men's 5,000 meter final heat after clocking in with a time of 15:23.44.

Some important performers include Nathan Hill '20, who was able to come in first in the 1500-meter race with a time of 4:00.40. In this race, Will Meyer '20 came in fifth with a time of 4:04.00.

A time of 15:23.44 netted Theo Henderson '20 a first-place finish in the 5000-meter race. Henderson was followed by Henry Fleming '20, who had a time of 15:38.79 to get fourth place. Also, Minhaj Rahman '19 threw a distance of 51.80 meters to capture first in the hammer-throw event.

The women's team amassed 72 points, 17 behind the first place finishers, WPI.

There were several important performers for the women's team. In the 400-meter dash, Gretchen McGrath '21 and Kai Milici '21 placed sixth and seventh, respectively. McGrath had a time of 1:03.30, and Milici had a time of 1:03.38. Abigail Nadler '19 and Read Allen '18 were able to capture the top two spots of the 5000-meter run with times of 17:47.34 and 18:12.81, respectively. Also, Panthers placed in each of the top three spots in the shot-put event. Helene Rowland '20 got first-place honors by throwing 11.58 meters. Rowland was followed by Lauren Boyd '21, whose toss went 10.46 meters, and Kiera Dowell '20, who threw 9.88 meters.

"The team's level of performance was good considering the elements," said Meyer, the fifth-place finisher in the men's 1500-meter race. "It was windy and in the high 30s for most of the day. We had a couple personal bests and performed well relative to the competition, winning several events."

The excitement for what the outdoor season has to offer is growing, and hopefully that will lead to success.

"We have a really strong and supportive team this year," said Glew, adding, "We're definitely capable of accomplishing a lot this season."

The track and field teams will host the Panther Spring Invitational tomorrow and Saturday, April 13–14. The festivities tomorrow are slated to begin at noon. Catch the Panthers as they hope to stay on track and continue to get settled into the season.

SUCCESSFUL START FOR SECOND HALF SCHEDULE FOR MEN'S LAX

By IMRAN GANDA

For the first time this season, the men's lacrosse team (5–5, 3–4) won back-to-back games with last week's pair of road victories over Nescac cellar-dwellers Hamilton and Colby. Their 12–6 win over Hamilton in midweek action saw the Panthers play some of their best lacrosse of the season, and their 11–10 victory in Waterville last Saturday, April 7, demonstrated the team's grit.

"It felt good to get momentum back on our side," said Chase Goree '20. "Our confidence was [shaken] during that three-game skid, and now we are starting to realize the type of swagger and competitiveness it takes to compete with teams in our conference."

The pair of conference wins puts the Panthers in position to complete in postseason play. If the season ended today, Middlebury would be the seven seed in next month's conference tournament — they hold the edge in the standings over Bates thanks to their head-to-head victory.

Last Wednesday's game against Hamilton is worth special consideration because the Panthers were at their best.

"The offense moved the ball quickly and played together to generate some nice looks," said Danny Jacobs '20. Ball movement and team offense keyed the Panthers to their largest margin of victory of the season so far.

The Panthers saw their share of upstate New York and New England in the last week, too. After the midweek game in Clinton, New York, the Panthers headed east to Waterville, Maine, to take on the Colby Mules last Saturday.

After a tightly-contested first quarter, the Panthers trailed the Mules 4–3. Nonetheless, carrying their momentum from the Hamilton game into Waterville, the Middlebury defense managed to contain the Mules' attack. Colby scored only a single goal in the second and third quarters.

The Panthers dominated on all fronts in the second quarter, outscoring the Mules 4–1.

When Henry Riehl '18 found the back of the net midway through the second quarter, putting the Panthers up 6–4, he also extended his goal-scoring streak to 17 straight games in the process. Although an impressive feat, it almost went unnoticed by Riehl, who credits his teammates and his drive to inspire those around him as well.

"I actually had no idea I had that goal-scoring streak," Riehl said. "It's pretty exciting to hear that, and I think it's a testament to the other guys out there every game. I'm fortunate enough to play with some great passers like A.J. Kucinski '20 that make my life pretty easy. I try to lead by example, so I hope my tenacity on offense motivates my teammates to play with that same intensity."

Though Colby managed to score three in the final quarter, the Panthers were able to slot home three goals of their own to leave the Pine Tree State victorious.

The offense has clicked for the Panthers recently, as they demonstrated in high-scoring quarters in their past two games. Not only has the defense done a better job of shutting down opportunities for opponents to reel themselves back into games, but the Panthers have stuck to their guns and philosophies to ensure offensive efficiency.

"We preach as an offensive group to not get 'tunnel vision' and to 'hit singles.' When all six offensive players are doing their best to maintain these two principles, we are hard to stop," Goree mentioned.

In spite of their two-game win streak and reviving their playoff hopes, the Panthers are usually unconcerned with rankings. They believe they will be a playoff-bound team that is capable of defeating anyone.

"We take it one day at a time and look to be playing our best lacrosse in the month of May," Riehl stated. "If we approach every day with this mindset, the rest should take care of itself."

After last night's midweek action at Springfield, the Panthers are now three games into a stretch of five straight that they have to play on the road. With a 2–0 start, the team is looking forward to gaining wins away from home and solidifying their presence in the conference in spite of the midweek travel challenges.

"Playing away from home is difficult in general but extremely difficult in the Nescac," Goree said. "Every opponent is capable of beating anyone, so you really have to bring it every time you step on someone else's turf."

Surely the Panthers are more than ready and equipped to take down any Nescac opponent. They will be in action again this Saturday, April 14, in Hartford, Connecticut, for a conference bout with Trinity (4–6, 1–5).

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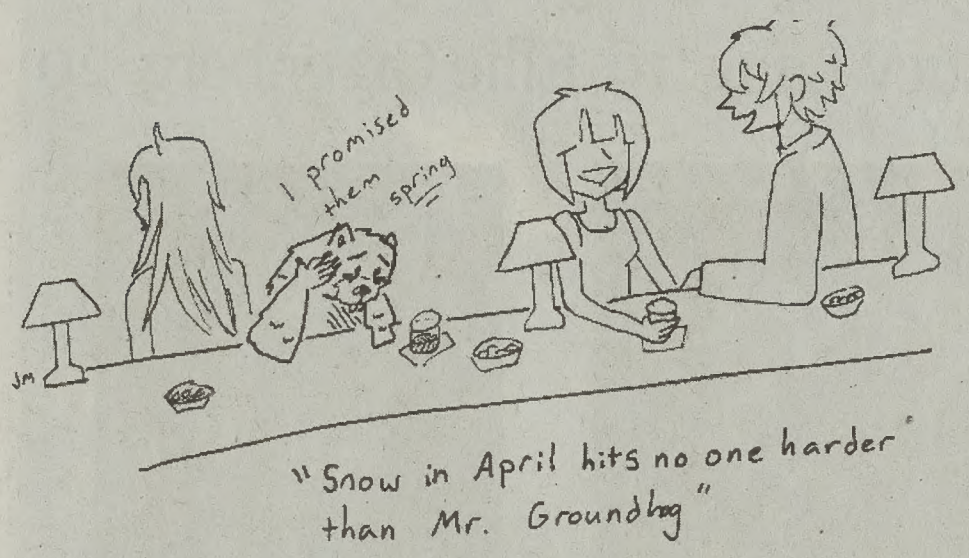
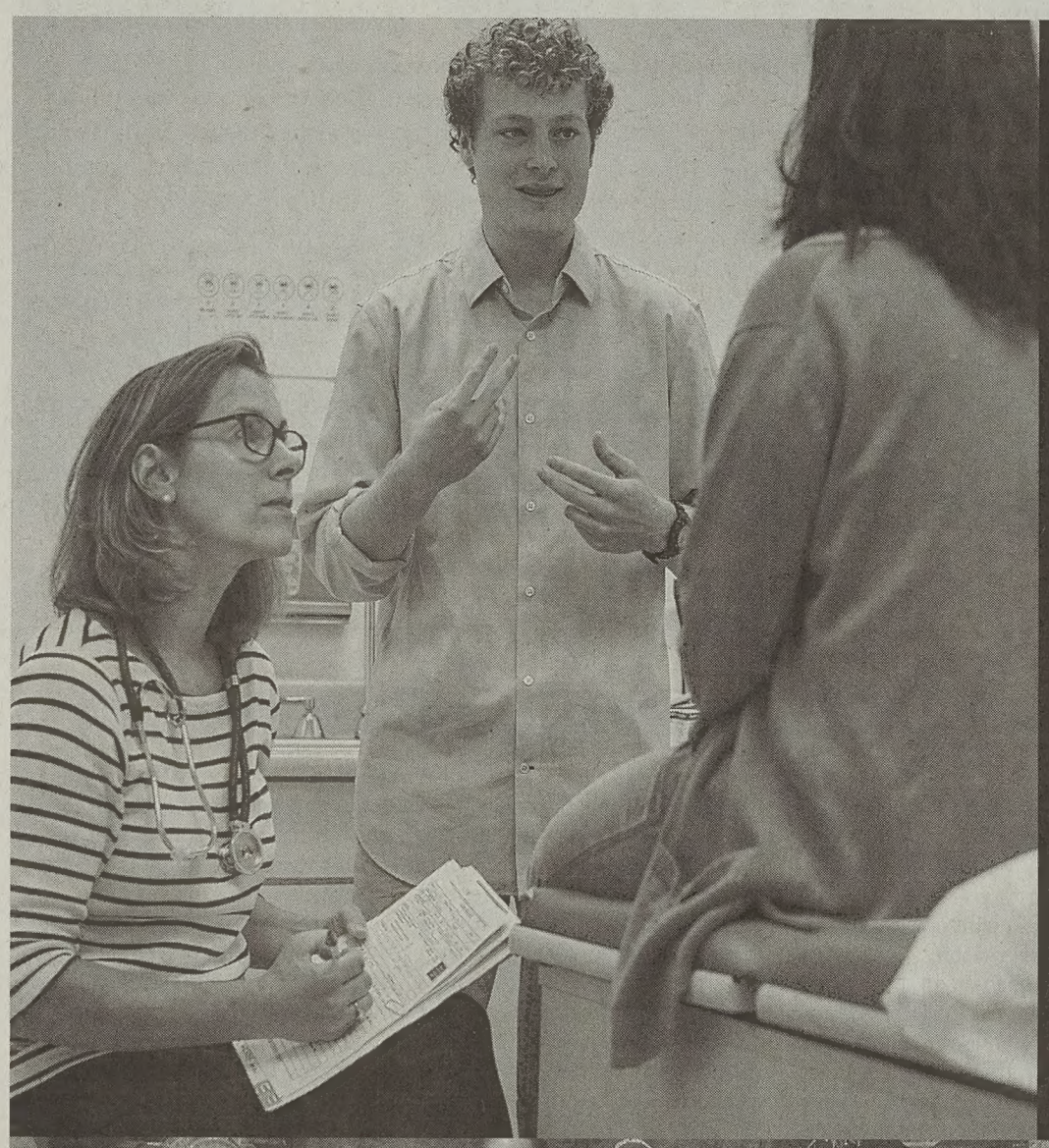


JENNY MO

Perspective
I've had such a horrible week. I got sick, I fought with my girlfriend, I lost my favorite necklace-
Well, look on the bright side! It could be worse. You could be stranded in the middle of the sea, dying of scurvy with no hope of rescue!
...
That is the weirdest thing I've ever heard and it doesn't make me feel better.
I'm just putting things in perspective.

KAITLYND COLLINS



It's National Volunteer Week.

The Center for Community Engagement thanks all of the students, faculty, staff, and community partners for their commitment to public service.

Thank you.

Middlebury College
Center for Community Engagement

LEFT: Jody Brakeley, RN, working with Privilege & Poverty summer intern JJ Moser, who served as a medical interpreter at the Open Door Clinic in Middlebury.

MIDDLEBURY MAPLE RUN

IT'S BACK! 3-MILE FUN RUN

All ages welcome! Walkers, too!

· UnTapped maple shot for every runner · Free cotton t-shirt (register by 4/20) · Live music from student bands along the course · Finishers' medals from Middlebury's Maple Landmark · Proceeds go to local charities

13.1 miles 2-person relay team: $65
13.1 miles Individual: $45
3 mile Fun Run: $40

Visit the race website for online registration and race details middleburymaplerun.com

Vermont's Sweetest Half Marathon, Relay and Fun Run

9 A.M. SUNDAY, MAY 6, 2018

10th ANNIVERSARY

Sponsored By
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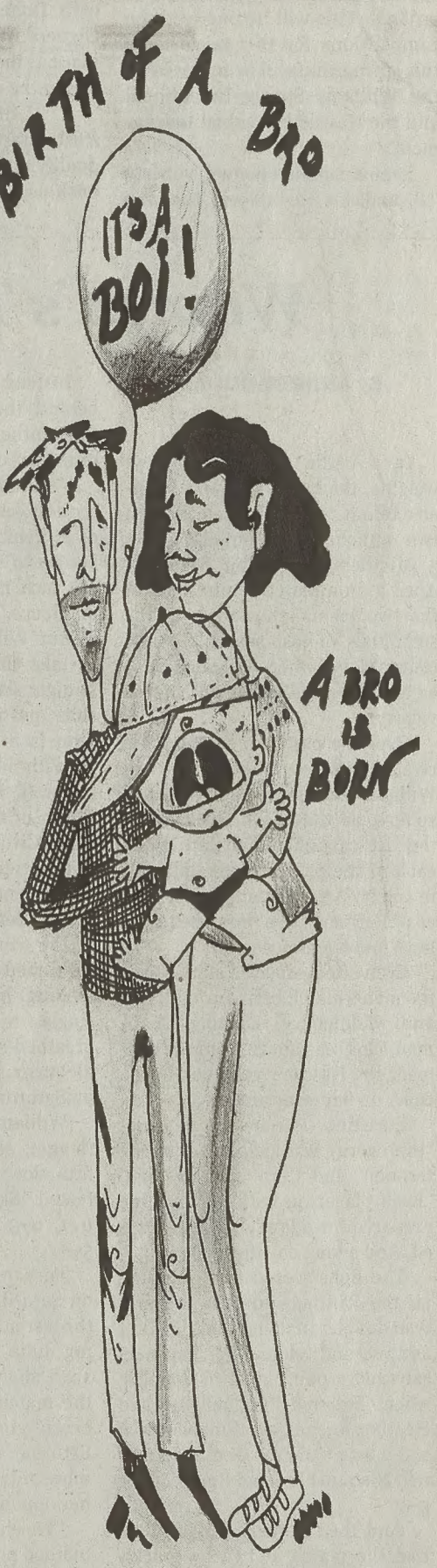
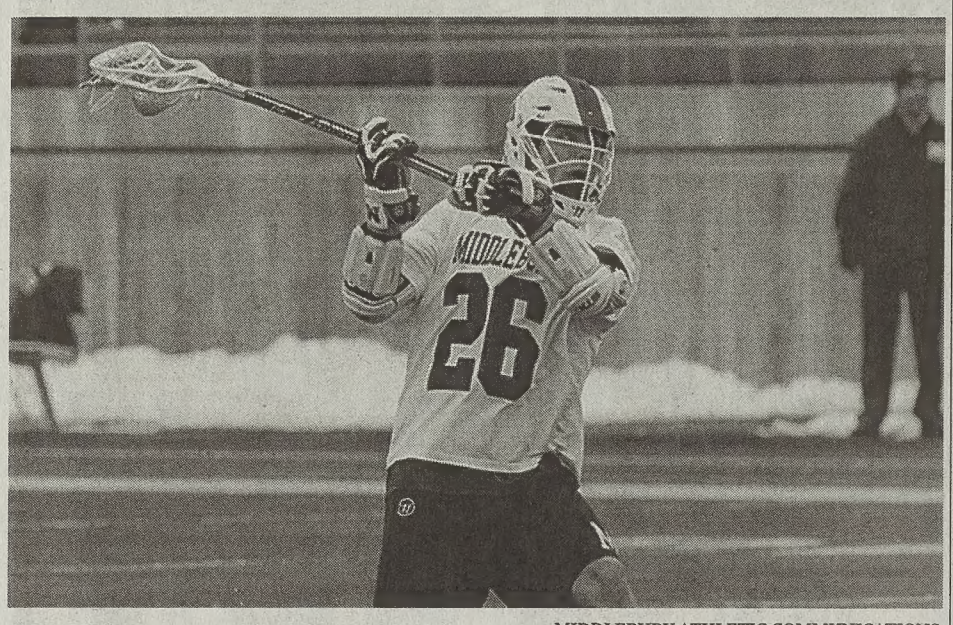


ALEXIS CLAY

Panther Team of the Week: Men's Lacrosse

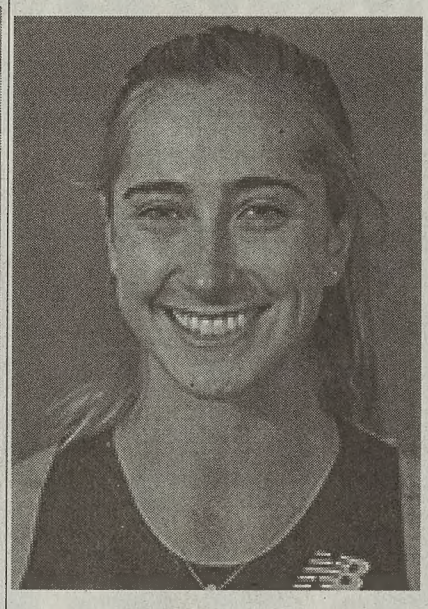


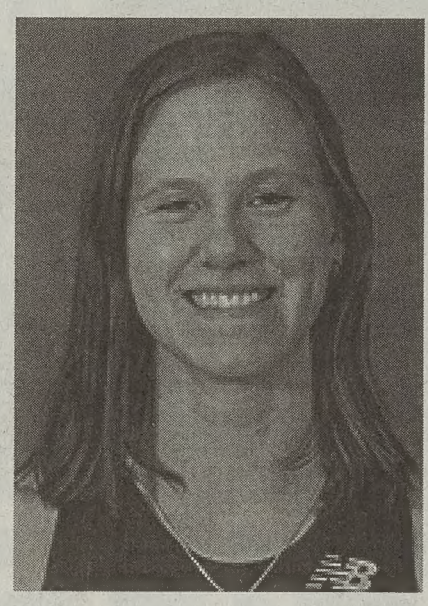
MIDDLEBURY ATHLETIC COMMUNICATIONS

It was a tough week in Middlebury sports, but the men's lacrosse team provided one of the few bright spots when they defeated Colby 11–10 in Waterville last Saturday. After conceding two early goals, the Panthers dug themselves out of trouble, outscored the Mules 4–1 in the second quarter and never looked back. In that all-important second quarter, the team's top three goal scorers got the ball past Colby's goalie, C.J. Layton. Michael McCormick '19 provided two unassisted goals, Henry Riehl '18 scored his 18th of the season, and A.J. Kucinski '20 found the back of the net for the 16th time this season.

Now 5–5 overall, 3–4 in conference, Middlebury is looking like a lock to get a bid to the conference tournament next month. The Panthers currently stand 1.5 games ahead of Colby and Trinity and own the tiebreaker over Bates due to their 11–10 win over the Bobcats back on Saturday, March 3. If recent seasons tell us anything, the Panthers know that all they have to do is get into the postseason tournament and anything is possible. Last year, the Panthers beat both three-seeded Amherst and one-seeded Bates en route to the conference championship game, where they lost 9–8 to Wesleyan.

Panther Players of the Week: Lucy Lang '19, Ellie Greenberg '20





MIDDLEBURY ATHLETIC COMMUNICATIONS

In a result that will be filed in the slightly obscure stats cabinet, Lucy Lang '19 and Ellie Greenberg '20 both ran the fastest times in their respective events in last Saturday's Amherst Spring Fling meet. Greenberg accomplished the feat in the 100m dash, and Lang did so in the 800m run. However, neither finished in first place because they both did it in their preliminary events.

Greenberg ran the 100 in 12.66 — 0.01 seconds faster than the event winner, Briana Gausland of Wheaton (Massachusetts), ran in the final. Lang finished her 800 prelim in 2:16.61, 7.05 seconds faster than she ran in the final heat. Even more impressive was that Lang's 2:16.61 prelim time was 3.35 seconds better than that of the event winner, Wesleyan's Rebecca Lopez-Anido. Although they did not win, we wanted to give a nod to Greenberg's and Lang's performances.

Golf Looks Forward to Quick Spring Season

By MIGUEL ESPINOSA

The men's and women's golf teams spring seasons start this coming weekend, when both teams leave Vermont for their first tournaments.

On Friday, April 13th, the Men's team will travel to Dartmouth, Massachusetts to play in the Westport Hampton Inn Invitational. This will be one of three competitions for the men's team this spring, and will be followed by the Williams Spring Invitational and the Nescac individual tournament.

Senior captains Bennet Doherty '18, and Joe Ko '18 will lead the Panthers this spring in their swan songs as Panthers. They competed in the Nescac Qualifiers in the fall, where they finished 14th and 29th, respectively. Also returning this spring is Sophomore Jeffrey Giguere, who tied for 2nd at the Saratoga Invitational and 3rd at the Qualifiers.

Doherty and Giguere will represent Middlebury at Nescac Individuals after they paced the Panthers at Nescacs in the fall. To go along with Doherty's 14th-place finish, Giguere finished in a tie for third place as the best first-year competitor in the competition.

"I think that we've gotten a fresh start, because we missed qualifying for the Nescac Championships, and we'll treat every week as if it's the final tournament," Giguere said, when asked about Middlebury's outlook this spring. :We're going to give it our all and hopefully get a win to reinvigorate us for the next season.

"We've been up on the course, at least this week, working on mostly our wedge game because it's the first thing that becomes rusty when you take time off. Especially because the course is closed right now, it's so wet that they can't open it up for public play. We're just trying to scrape together whatever we can do, especially with a tournament coming up in a couple of days," said Giguere, when asked about preparing for Friday.

Meanwhile, on Saturday, April 14th, the Women's Golf team will travel to Poughkeepsie N.Y, to play in the Vassar Invitational. Future competitions will include the Jack Leaman Tournament at Amherst and the Williams Spring Invitational. They will hope to continue their strong performances from the Fall, after placing in the top three in four out of five competitions. Senior captains include Katharine Fortin '18 and Hope Matthews '18. Fortin placed 1st out of 69 participants in the Phinney Classic last season, while finishing 4th at the Wellesley Invitational, and 9th at the St. Lawrence Invitational.

"The short spring season is definitely hard coming out of a cold winter," Fortin said, "but we will continue to be up there with Williams and Amherst, especially if we stay on top of our games and keep up our strength through the winter months.

The Panthers are also energetic about their current supply of talent, and are optimistic about the future.

"It has been really interesting to watch the team grow and develop over the past few years," Matthews said. "I think we have gathered a lot of great talent in recent recruiting and it is definitely showing in our results. Although we have not won any tournaments yet, we are getting closer to catching our competitors each time. I'm really excited to see how we can challenge Williams, Amherst, NYU, and other opponents in the spring."

Women's Tennis Tumbles Against Purple Cows

By ANDREW RIGAS

In a battle of Nescac heavyweights, the No. 2 Williams women's tennis team delivered the first two punches and outlasted No. 5 Middlebury 5–4 on Saturday, April 7, in a match reminiscent of the two teams' showdown in the semifinals of last season's NCAA tournament, when Williams ended Middlebury's season with a 5–4 victory.

Over the past two seasons, the rivalry between Middlebury and Williams has reached a new stratosphere, as they have faced off in the Nescac championship game each of the past two seasons, and in the NCAA tournament last year as well. During this time, the teams have met five times in all.

Even after a delayed start due to the men's match between Williams and Middlebury, Lansing Chapman Rink was abuzz from the moment the Nescac rivals took to the court on Saturday afternoon.

Christina Puccinelli '19 said, "the energy was palpable," all afternoon and into the evening. "Each player on both teams came prepared for a long day," she added. And a long day they got.

The Ephs scored first, jumping on the Panthers to take the first two doubles matches in the first and second slot. The Panthers salvaged a point at third doubles, when Christina Puccinelli '19 and Heather Boehm '20 climbed out of a 5–2 hole to defeat Giulia McDonnell Nieto del Rio and Emily Zheng 9–7.

And then Catherine Blazye '20 tied the match at two by quickly dismissing Chloe Henderson 6–2, 6–0 in fourth singles. Just like that, it was a new match between the fierce rivals, as each needed three more wins to secure their biggest victory in the conference regular season.

Instead of folding after falling behind the second-ranked Ephs, the Panthers stayed the course and remained confident.

"Although we were down 1-2 after doubles, we did a very good job of switching our attention immediately to singles and heading into our next matches with confidence and focus," Puccinelli said.

But Williams came right back to take the next two matches in straight sets in the second and first slots, putting themselves one win away from victory.

With her team's back against the wall, Boehm won her second match of the day to keep Middlebury alive, even after losing her first set to Leah Bush 2–6. She took the next set 6–4, before Bush retired, ceding the match to Boehm in the third slot. The sophomore continued her strong spring, extending her unbeaten streak in singles to nine matches, as she breathed some life back into Middlebury's sails for the second time on Saturday.

Williams would not be denied though, sealing the match in the fifth slot where Mia Gancayco defeated Skylar Schossberger '20 6–1, 6–3 to put the Ephs ahead 5–3.

Perhaps as telling as anything on Saturday, Maddi Stow '20 won the last match of the day by defeating Julia Cancio 7–5, 6–4 in the sixth slot after Williams had won the match. Stow's victory had no bearing on the grander scheme of Saturday's match, but the sophomore still managed to rally to beat her opponent in straight sets.

"We ended up losing, but we remained positive and composed until the last shot was hit," said Puccinelli. "It also helped to end on a high note, with our sophomore Maddi Stow closing the night out with a win."

In the end, only one match separated the Nescac rivals on Saturday, just like their final match of 2017. No one on Middlebury believes Saturday did anything to separate the two teams.

"I do not believe there was any difference in ability which affected Saturday's matchup," Schossberger said. "The fact is anybody can lose to anybody on any given day."

Puccinelli echoed her teammates' words, saying "To be perfectly honest, given the talent on both teams, I think the match could have gone either way. They happened to come out on top this time, but we came away from the match with absolute confidence that we have what it takes to win in the future."

Of course, the Panthers would love another shot at their nemesis, after having demonstrated again they could play with the Ephs.

"The goal is to get another chance at Williams," said Blazye. "I can't wait to see what the rest of the season hold for our team."

Right now, Williams is the last undefeated team in the Nescac (11–0) and seems primed to make runs at its sixth Nescac championship in eight years and ninth NCAA championship in the last 11 years.

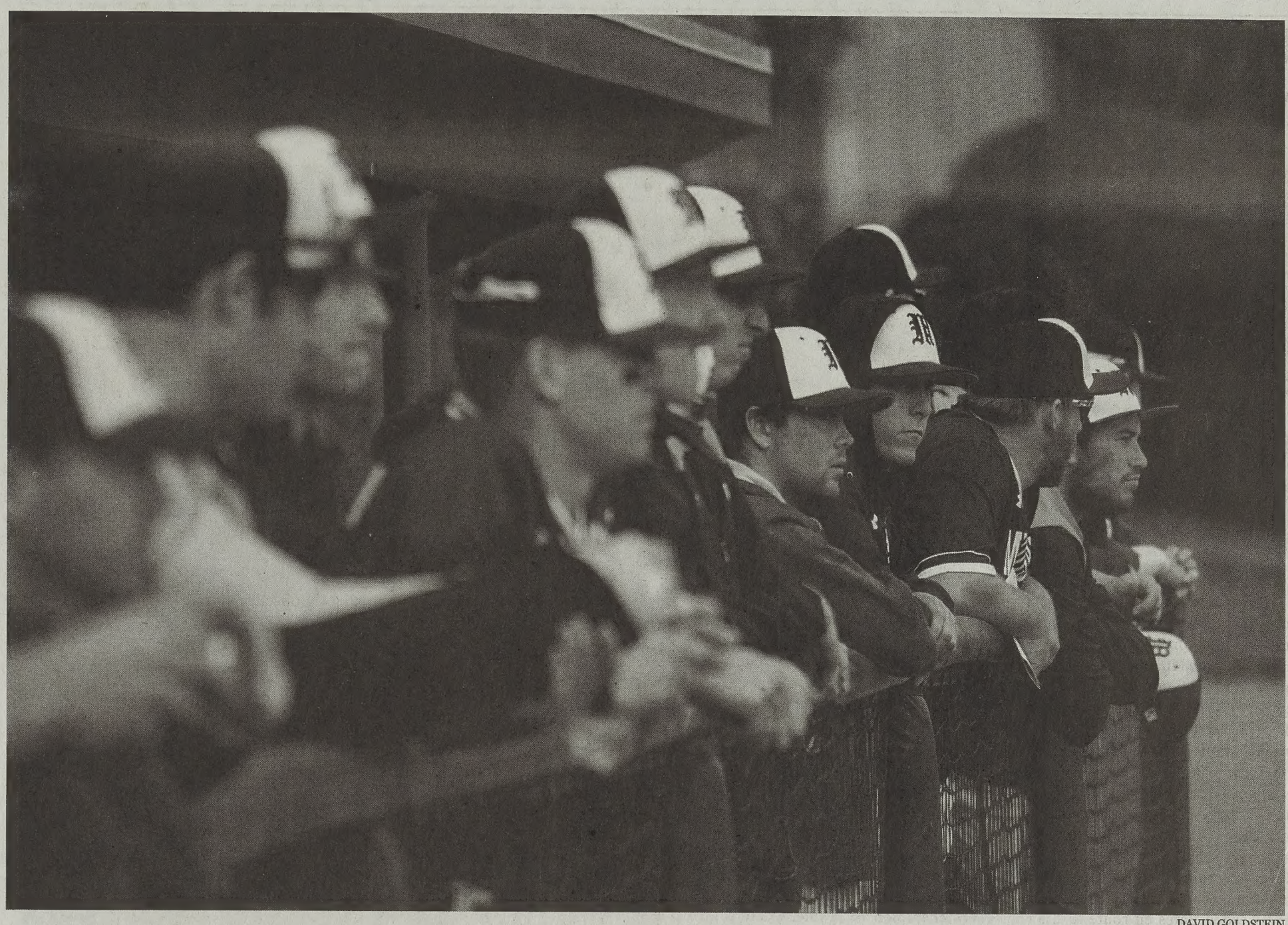
If the Panthers (7–2) want another shot at their rivals, they will need to buckle down for the rest of their Nescac schedule, which includes bouts with No. 14 Bowdoin, No. 29 Trinity, No. 4 Wesleyan and No. 8 Amherst. They showed considerable mettle on Saturday, despite the final result. Replicating that form the rest of the way will be key to earning another match against Williams, since another meeting would likely be in a higher stakes match.

If history repeats itself, they will meet again in the Nescac or NCAA tournaments. And if history repeats itself, Middlebury may come out on top next time around. Remember, Middlebury won in the regular season last year but lost to the Ephs in Nescacs and NCAAs — The Panthers certainly recall that fact.

"We would love to get the chance to play Williams again in the post-season," said Puccinelli. "Not only is it always fun to play our rivals, but we've also developed great relationships with the players on their team. Of course, we now have the added incentive of staging a comeback, so stay tuned."

MICHAEL BORENSTEIN

Christina Puccinelli '19 paired with Heather Boehm '20 to get one of Middlebury's four wins on Saturday.



DAVID GOLDSTEIN

The baseball team sets their sights on Amherst, whom they will host for a three-game series this weekend, Friday and Saturday, 13 and 14, at Forbes Field.

Baseball Posts First Winning Spring Trip Since 2012

By JENNY LANGERMAN

Last week, Middlebury baseball hit the road to take on the Wesleyan in the Panthers' second Nescac series of the season. The previous week's strong performance, in which the Panthers took two out of three from Williams, gave the team a boost of confidence going into the series. Unfortunately, it seems the Panthers were not able to channel the same fierceness and their high morale into last week's games, as the Cardinals broke out the brooms.

The series kicked off with a doubleheader on Saturday, April 7, during which the Cardinals took a 1–0 lead right off the bat in the first inning. Middlebury was able to hold the Cardinals for the remainder of the game with strong defensive play on the mound from junior captain Colby Morris '19, who managed to throw out eight Cardinals and let up only one run on four hits. The Panthers found little luck at the plate though, tallying 10 strikeouts and zero hits.

Errors and walks killed any shot the Panthers had in the second game of the series. The second inning was especially bad, as the Cardinals scored six of their 12 runs, registering only one hit in the process. The Panthers put up a strong fight, scoring four in the seventh inning and then four in the ninth, but it wasn't enough to overtake the Cardinals, and the game ended in a 12–8 loss for the Panthers. Sam Graf '19, Brendan Donahue '18, Henry Strmecki '21 and Gray Goolsby '20 all got on base and scored for Middlebury, and both Justin Han '20 and Brooks Carroll '20 finished with a pair of runs.

Will Oppenheim '21 took a hard loss on the mound, letting up the six runs in the second inning. "I really need to be able to repeat my mechanics more so I can throw more strikes and go deeper into games and walk fewer people," Oppenheim said.

However, this performance will likely be only a small bump in the road for Oppenheim. In his short time playing at the college level, the first-year currently sports a 3.14 ERA and 13 strikeouts, third only to captains Morris and Rob Erikson '18, who have fanned 30 and 14, respectively.

Sunday's get-out-of-town game brought a similar outcome for the Panthers. The Cardinals were again the first to score, putting up an impressive seven runs in the first inning. They then tacked on two more in the third and another in the seventh. Middlebury seemed to answer, scoring six runs by the end of the sixth inning, but they were not able to come back and fell 10–6.

According to Han, the team was well aware of Wesleyan's skill going into the series and took measures to prepare for the challenge.

"We had scouting reports for Wesleyan's pitchers to prepare for the weekend. We knew their guys would throw a lot of balls and [that] we would need to be selective at the plate," Han said. The Panthers tried not to concern themselves too much with the other team's past success, however.

"We just focused on playing our game," explained Morris.

Understandably, the team's vibe coming off this tough series was starkly different from that of the previous week's games.

"Mentally we were confident after playing Williams and had faith in our lineup top to bottom," said Morris — a readiness echoed by Han.

"We were very confident after a strong performance against Williams the previous weekend," Han said. "We were prepared and ready to compete."

Morris attributes the difference in last week's performance to a lack of fire.

"We didn't play the whole series with confidence," said Morris, who added, "we found ourselves on our heels, especially early on in games one and two."

Despite this, he remains extremely positive and optimistic about what the future holds for the Panthers.

"We aren't stoked with where we are, but that just makes us hungrier for the next game," Morris said. "For whatever reason we like being the underdog, and we find ourselves in that familiar place again. People are going to doubt us after we doubted ourselves at times this past weekend, but it's a privilege to play this game. So, regardless of our position, our mentality is for them to bring it on."

Additionally, the team still has their sights set on winning the Nescac championship.

"We will not let a single win or loss deter us from our goal," a determined Han declared.

After this week's midweek action (barring weather), the Panthers host Amherst tomorrow afternoon at 4 p.m. for the first of three-game set.

"I think playing at home will be a huge advantage this week. Traveling definitely takes a toll on us, so being home this weekend will be nice," Oppenheim said.

Men's Tennis Splits Weekend in Massachusetts

By JACK KAGAN

Travelling south to Massachusetts to take on No. 5 Williams and No. 15 Tufts for their first matches since spring break, the men's tennis team had a lot to be excited about. For one, Williams recently beat No. 6 Claremont-Mudd-Scripps, who two weekends ago handed Middlebury their first loss of the season against DIII competition. On top of that, standout Noah Farrell '19 made his return to play his first match of the spring, and Will de Quant '18 was settling in in his second singles match of the spring. Thus, the Panthers drove to Williamstown with the goal of defending their high national ranking before the new Oracle ITA DIII National Rankings come out.

The Panthers, however, found themselves in a big hole early, losing all three doubles matches. Middlebury, who is 30–12 this spring in doubles, could not convert on any of the closely contested matches. De Quant, who is making his own return to the courts this spring, teamed up with Farrell in his much-anticipated return to action. The two lost in a tiebreak, 9–8 (7–4).

"What separates us from Williams in doubles was just one or two points," de Quant assured. "Nothing more than that. That is the beauty of sports, and if we take away the most important information from that match and work on key things this week during practice, we will win those points next time and be in a stronger position going into singles."

He may be right. Timo van der Geest '18 and Peter Martin '19 lost by the same close score, while Lubo Cuba '19 and Kyle Schlanger '18 went down 9–7 in just their third loss in 13 matches.

De Quant noted that such a 0–3 deficit to start the match can be demoralizing.

"Going down 3–0 by losing two doubles tiebreakers can be a big blow to the morale," de Quant said.

"Our team displayed a lot of poise and competitive spirit in the face of an 0–3 deficit, and we battled back hard," assistant coach Andrew Thomson said. De Quant was the first to do so, and in convincing fashion.

"My focus was on inserting as much energy and intensity into the overall match as possible," de Quant said.

"We really wanted to get a point on the board as quickly as possible to build some momentum, and I knew that If I played focused and intense, I would be able to do that," de Quant said of his rebounding performance against Williams' Sachin Raghavan. De Quant must have been focused indeed, having the strongest win of the day with a dominant 6–2, 6–3 victory. Picking up his first win of the spring, de Quant added, "Even though I lost a tight match against CMS, I was happy to be back on court and competing at a high level for the team. After that match, I knew that if I focused on finding my rhythm and patterns again, my confidence would follow. I am enjoying being back out on court and still working to get back to the level of play I know I am capable of. This weekend was a step in the right direction."

As for steps in the right direction, Farrell in the No. 2 spot was next to finish after de Quant. He came back from a 0–6 loss in the first set to power his way to a win 6–3, 6–3 in the final two sets. The coaching staff as well as the players were clearly anxious to get Farrell back on court. "It was a particular treat to watch [Farrell] back in action and competing with exemplary fight and courage in his three-set comeback victory," said Thomson. On de Quant, he added, "[he] is also continuing to get healthier and healthier and matched Noah's focused matchplay against Williams with a rock-solid performance."

And it wasn't just those returning from injury who impressed last weekend. De Quant added, "We competed very hard, and guys showed grit and determination down 3–0 against Williams." Cuba fit this description well. Though he suffered his third loss of the season, he pushed Brian Grodecki to a marathon third-set tiebreak. This put the Panthers down 4–2. Any more singles wins for Williams would seal the match. The next three matches proved incredibly close. Schlanger won the first set in his match at No. 4, but lost the next two, sealing the match for Williams. The dense bottom of Middlebury's ladder again proved too strong. The Panthers have dominated at the No. 5 and No. 6 spots, going 12–2 at both positions. Saturday was no different, as first-year Andre Xiao '21 picked up an impressive ninth win this spring. Even so, Xiao himself needed a tiebreak to win, and van der Geest rounded out the scoring with a marathon comeback win, 10–8, in the third set. These wins did have significant meaning, assured Thomson, who said, "We are definitely remaining steadfast in our belief that each of these match experiences will bolster our resilience and also [provide] feedback on what we need to work on moving forward to increase the probability of pulling through when it matters most, toward the end of the year." The final score was 5–4 for the Ephs.

"The team had to bounce back quickly and definitely responded brilliantly, getting a victory over a very tough Tufts team on the road," Thomson said. The Panthers indeed had little time to waste or worry, with no small task in beating Tufts on the road the very next day. However, they started on the road to redemption early, winning two out of three doubles matches in convincing fashion. Though they struggled at the No. 2 and No. 3 positions, the Panthers again dominated down the ladder, winning matches in the fourth through sixth slots, highlighted by a 6–1, 6–2 win by Schlanger.

At No. 1, Cuba also proved unfazed by yesterday's close defeat and made quick work of Tufts' Rohan Gupte. De Quant praised the performance of Xiao and Nate Eazor '21.

"Two freshmen closed out our match against an inspired Tufts team, in difficult conditions and with huge pressure, so there are a lot of great things to take away from this weekend," de Quant said. "Overall, we are on the right path upwards and have an amazing group of competitors top to bottom, so I am very positive going into the Bowdoin weekend."

Remaining hopeful and rightfully pleased with the Tufts result, de Quant couldn't help but make reference to this coming weekend's slate. Current No. 2 Bowdoin will come over to Middlebury to face the Panthers on their home courts.

With everyone back from injury and in the swing of things, don't take Midd's losses to top-ranked CMS and Williams as indicative of a result this weekend. Undefeated Bowdoin has dominated numerous ranked opponents this year, including CMS, but be ready to watch the Panthers shake the rankings up again with their full lineup ready to go.

Softball Looks to Put Amherst Sweep Behind Them Host Hamilton for a Momentum Turning Series

By LAUREN BOYD

Following a hard-fought, 4–3, midweek victory over Plattsburgh, the softball team took to the road to take on No. 17 Amherst (17–2, 5–0) for a three-game set last weekend.

The Panthers fell to the Mammoths on Saturday, April 7, by a final score of 9–4, and dropped both games of their doubleheader on Sunday, April 8, by scores of 3–0 and 7–2. After getting swept on the road, the Panthers stand at .500, 7–7, as they enter the heart of their schedule.

Though the Panthers had solid offensive and defensive efforts, the Mammoths' pitching, led by 12.2 innings of Lorena Ukanwa and her 10–0 record, kept the Panthers from doing any meaningful damage.

Senior captain Kati Daczkowski '18 hopes to look forward from the losses and work on facing the next competition, especially in Nescac play.

"We have to keep moving forward and improving our play," Daczkowski said, "We're looking forward to this week and new competition."

The highlight of the week, and potentially the season so far, was the Panthers' effort against Plattsburgh. On the road at Cardinal Park, on a cold Wednesday, April 4, afternoon, the Panthers used a total-team effort to come from behind and beat Plattsburgh.

The Middlebury captains' preseason hope to use their small size to their advantage was validated, as every player had a hand in the victory against the Cardinals.

Emily Morris '21 pitched a great game for the Panthers. On the mound, she recorded seven timely strikeouts to highlight a strong performance. Plattsburgh was only able to get four hits off of her.

The offensive side of the Panthers put in an all-team effort and a strong start. Early in the first inning, after an Allison Quigley '18 single moved Olivia Bravo '20 and Melanie Mandell '20 to second and third, respectively, Taylor Gardner '18 came up with the bases loaded. Gardner grounded into a would-be fielder's choice, but an error by the Cardinals' pitcher allowed her to reach safely as Bravo crossed the plate. With the bases still loaded, Lisa Tarr '19 stepped up to the plate and struck out. However, a passed ball allowed Tarr to reach safely, and Mandell crossed the plate for the second run on an error in as many batters for the Panthers.

Heading into the fifth, the Panthers trailed the Cardinals 3–2 when, luckily for Middlebury, Bravo continued her stellar day, sending a two-out triple to center. Mandell then came up and hit what seemed to be an inning-ending grounder to the pitcher. However, for the second time in the game an error by the Cardinals' pitcher extended the inning. A throwing error to first allowed Bravo to score and Mandell to reach base safety.

If things were not already wacky and exciting enough, the Panthers took back the lead in the sixth on a Plattsburgh wild pitch, which allowed Gardner to score what would be the game's decisive run as the Panthers came out victorious, 4–3.

After some weather-pending midweek action — a doubleheader against Castleton — the Panthers are set to host Hamilton tomorrow evening at 5 p.m. for the first game of an important three-game set, with a doubleheader scheduled to start at noon on Saturday.

SUSAN QUIGLEY

Olivia Bravo '20 hit a game changing triple in last week's road affair against Plattsburgh.

SUSAN QUIGLEY

Olivia Bravo '20 hit a game changing triple in last week's road affair against Plattsburgh.

SENIOR SPOTLIGHT

Average: .208

OBP: .240

Stolen Bases: 3

ALI DELLA VOLPE
POSITION: UTILITY

Average: .297

OBP: .381

SLG: .432

KATI DACZKOWSKI
POSITION: OUTFIELD

Average: .341

SLG: .568

ERA: 2.92

ALLISON QUIGLEY
POSITION: PITCHER

Average: .205

FPT: .964

Assists: 15

TAYLOR GARDNER
POSITION: INFIELD/PITCHER

SUSAN QUIGLEY

Olivia Bravo '20 hit a game changing triple in last week's road affair against Plattsburgh.